

04: PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF PEACE OFFICERS

Section 4.01 POLICY

It is the policy of the Albany Police Department to investigate circumstances that suggest a peace officer has engaged in unbecoming conduct, and impose disciplinary action when appropriate.

Section 4.02 PROCEDURE

This policy applies to all peace officers of this agency engaged in official duties, whether within or outside of the territorial jurisdiction of this agency. Unless otherwise noted, this policy also applies to off-duty conduct. Conduct not mentioned under a specific rule but that violates a general principle is prohibited.

A. PRINCIPLE ONE

Peace officers shall conduct themselves, whether on or off duty, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Minnesota Constitution, and all applicable laws, ordinances and rules enacted or established pursuant to legal authority.

- a. Rationale: Peace officers conduct their duties pursuant to a grant of limited authority from the community. Therefore, peace officers must understand the laws defining the scope of their enforcement powers. Peace officers may only act in accordance with the powers granted to them.
- b. Rules:
 - Peace officers shall not knowingly exceed their authority in the enforcement of the law.
 - Peace officers shall not knowingly disobey the law or rules of criminal procedure in such areas as interrogation, arrest, detention, searches, seizures, use of informants, and preservation of evidence, except where permitted in the performance of duty under proper authority.
 - Peace officers shall not knowingly restrict the freedom of individuals, whether by arrest or detention, in violation of the Constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota.
 - Peace officers, whether on or off duty, shall not knowingly commit any criminal offense under any laws of the United States or any state or local jurisdiction.

B. PRINCIPLE TWO

Peace officers shall refrain from any conduct in an official capacity that detracts from the public's faith in the integrity of the criminal justice system.

- a. Rationale: Community cooperation with the police is a product of its trust that peace officers will act honestly and with impartiality. The peace officer, as the public's initial contact with the criminal justice system, must act in a manner that instills such trust.
- b. Rules:

- Peace officers shall carry out their duties with integrity, fairness and impartiality.
- Peace officers shall not knowingly make false accusations of any criminal, ordinance, traffic or other law violation. This provision shall not prohibit the use of deception during criminal investigations or interrogations as permitted under law.
- Peace officers shall truthfully, completely, and impartially report, testify and present evidence, including exculpatory evidence, in all matters of an official nature.
- Peace officers shall take no action knowing it will violate the constitutional rights of any person.
- Peace officers must obey lawful orders, but a peace officer must refuse to obey any order the peace officer knows would require the peace officer to commit an illegal act. If in doubt as to the clarity of an order, the peace officer shall, if feasible, request the issuing peace officer to clarify the order. A peace officer refusing to obey an order shall be required to justify his or her actions.
- Peace officers learning of conduct or observing conduct that is in violation of any law or policy of this agency shall take necessary action and report the incident to the peace officer's immediate supervisor, who shall forward the information to the Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO). If the peace officer's immediate supervisor commits the misconduct, the peace officer shall report the incident to the immediate supervisor's supervisor.

C. PRINCIPLE THREE

The Albany Police Department is committed to unbiased policing and to reinforcing procedures that ensure that police service and law enforcement is provided in a fair and equitable manner to all. Peace officers shall perform their duties and apply the law impartially and without prejudice or discrimination.

- a. Rationale: Law enforcement effectiveness requires public trust and confidence. Diverse communities must have faith in the fairness and impartiality of their police. Peace officers must refrain from fostering disharmony in their communities based upon diversity, and perform their duties without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation or age.
- b. Rules:
 - Peace officers shall provide every person in our society with professional, effective and efficient law enforcement services.
 - Peace officers shall not allow their law enforcement decisions to be influenced by race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation or age.
 - All investigative detentions, pedestrian and vehicle stops, arrests, searches and seizures of property by peace officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the
 - U.S. Constitution and statutory authority. Peace officers must be able to articulate specific facts, circumstances and conclusions that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for a pedestrian or vehicle stop, investigative detention, arrest, non-consensual search or property seizure.
 - No person shall be singled out or treated differently as a consequence of his/her race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

D. PRINCIPLE FOUR

Peace officers shall not, whether on or off duty, exhibit any conduct which discredits themselves or their agency or otherwise impairs their ability or that of other peace officers or the agency to provide law enforcement services to the community.

a. Rationale: A peace officer's ability to perform his or her duties is dependent upon the respect and confidence communities have for the peace officer and law enforcement officers in general. Peace officers must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the integrity and trustworthiness expected of them by the public.

b. Rules:

- Peace officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages or chemical substances while on duty, except as permitted in the performance of official duties, and under no circumstances while in uniform, except as provided for in c).
- Peace officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages to the extent the peace officer would be rendered unfit for the peace officer's next scheduled shift. A peace officer shall not report for work with the odor of an alcoholic beverage on the peace officer's breath.
- Peace officers shall not use narcotics, hallucinogens, or other controlled substances except when legally prescribed. When medications are prescribed, the peace officer shall inquire of the prescribing physician whether the medication will impair the peace officer in the performance of the peace officer's duties. The peace officer shall immediately notify the peace officer's supervisor if a prescribed medication is likely to impair the peace officer's performance during the peace officer's next scheduled shift.
- Peace officers, while on duty/off duty, shall not engage in any conduct which the peace officer knows, or should reasonably know, constitutes sexual harassment as defined under Minnesota law, including but not limited to; making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, engaging in sexually motivated physical contact or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.
- Peace officers shall not commit any acts, which as defined under Minnesota law, constitute sexual assault or indecent exposure. Sexual assault does not include a frisk or other search done in accordance with proper police procedures.
- Peace officers shall not commit any acts which, as defined under Minnesota law, constitute (1) domestic abuse, or (2) the violation of a court order restraining the peace officer from committing an act of domestic abuse or harassment, having contact with the petitioner, or excluding the peace officer from the petitioner's home or workplace.
- Peace officers shall not, in the course of performing their duties, engage in any sexual contact or conduct constituting lewd behavior, including but not limited to, showering or receiving a massage in the nude, exposing themselves or otherwise making physical contact with the nude or partially nude body of any person, except as pursuant to a written policy of the agency.
- Peace officers shall avoid regular personal associations with persons who are known to engage in criminal activity where such associations will undermine the public

trust and confidence in the peace officer or agency. This rule does not prohibit those associations that are necessary to the performance of official duties, or where such associations are unavoidable because of the peace officer's personal or family relationships.

E. PRINCIPLE FIVE

Peace officers shall treat all members of the public courteously and with respect.

- a. Rationale: Peace officers are the most visible form of local government. Therefore, peace officers must make a positive impression when interacting with the public and each other.
- b. Rules:
 - Peace officers shall exercise reasonable courtesy in their dealings with the public, fellow officers, superiors and subordinates.
 - No peace officer shall ridicule, mock, deride, taunt, belittle, willfully embarrass, humiliate, or shame any person to do anything reasonably calculated to incite a person to violence. Peace officers shall refrain from the use of harsh, violent, coarse, profane, sarcastic, insolent or derogatory language which would demean the inherent dignity of any person or provoke a nonproductive response.
 - Peace officers shall promptly advise any inquiring citizen of the agency's complaint procedure, and shall follow the established agency policy for processing complaints.

F. PRINCIPLE SIX

Peace officers shall not compromise their integrity, nor that of their agency or profession, by accepting, giving or soliciting any gratuity which could be reasonably interpreted as capable of influencing their official acts or judgments, or by using their status as a peace officer for personal, commercial, or political gain.

- a. Rationale: For a community to have faith in its peace officers, peace officers must avoid conduct that does or could cast doubt upon the impartiality of the individual officer or the agency.
- b. Rules
 - Peace officers shall not use their official position, identification cards or badges:
 1. For personal or financial gain, for themselves or another person;
 2. For obtaining privileges not otherwise available to them except in the performance of duty; and
 3. For avoiding consequences of unlawful or prohibited actions.
- c. Peace officers shall not lend to another person their identification cards or badges or permit these items to be photographed or reproduced without approval of the chief law enforcement officer.
- d. Peace officers shall refuse favors or gratuities, which could be reasonably interpreted as

capable of influencing official acts or judgments.

- e. Unless required for the performance of official duties, peace officers shall not, while on duty, be present at establishments that have the primary purpose of providing sexually oriented adult entertainment. This rule does not prohibit peace officers from conducting a walk-through of such establishments as part of their regularly assigned duties.
- f. Peace officers shall:
 - not authorize the use of their names, photographs or titles in a manner that identifies the peace officer as an employee of this agency in connection with advertisements for any product, commodity or commercial enterprise;
 - maintain a neutral position with regard to the merits of any labor dispute, political protest, or other public demonstration while acting in an official capacity;
 - not make endorsements of political candidates, while on duty, or while wearing the agency's official uniform.

This section does not prohibit peace officers from expressing their views on existing, proposed or pending criminal justice legislation in their official capacity.

G. PRINCIPLE SEVEN

Peace officers shall not compromise their integrity, nor that of their agency or profession, by taking or attempting to influence actions when a conflict of interest exists.

- a. Rationale: For the public to maintain its faith in the integrity and impartiality of peace officers and their agencies, peace officers must avoid taking or influencing official actions where the peace officer's actions would or could conflict with the peace officer's appropriate responsibilities.
- b. Rules:
 - A peace officer shall, unless required by law or policy, refrain from becoming involved in official matters, or influencing actions of other peace officers in official matters, impacting the peace officer's immediate family, relatives, or
 - persons with whom the peace officer has or has had a significant personal relationship.
 - A peace officer shall, unless required by law or policy, refrain from acting or influencing official actions of other peace officers in official matters impacting persons with whom the peace officer has or has had a business or employment relationship.
 - A peace officer shall not use the authority of their position as a peace officer, or information available to them due to their status as a peace officer, for any purpose of personal gain including, but not limited to, initiating or furthering personal and/or intimate interactions of any kind with persons with whom the peace officer has had contact while on duty.
 - A peace officer shall not engage in any off-duty employment if the position compromises or would reasonably tend to compromise the peace officer's ability to

impartially perform the peace officer's official duties.

H. PRINCIPLE EIGHT

Peace officers shall observe the confidentiality of information available to them due to their status as peace officers.

- a. Rationale: Peace officers are entrusted with vast amounts of private and personal information, or access thereto. Peace officers must maintain the confidentiality of such information to protect the privacy of the subjects of that information, and to maintain public faith in the peace officer and agency's commitment to preserving such confidences.
- b. Rules:
 - Peace officers shall not knowingly violate any legal restriction for the release or dissemination of information.
 - Peace officers shall not, except in the course of official duties or as required by law, publicly disclose information likely to endanger or embarrass victims, witnesses or complainants.
 - Peace officers shall not divulge the identity of persons giving confidential information except as required by law or agency policy.

I. APPLICATION

Any disciplinary actions arising from violations of this policy shall be investigated in accordance with MN Statutes, Section 626.89, Peace Officer Discipline Procedures Act and the law enforcement agency's policy on Allegations of Misconduct as required by POST Board Rules, *MN Rules*, Chapters 6700.2000 to 6700.2600.