



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy # 2

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PRINCIPLES OF THE CCSO

Principle Base Defined

The principles of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) embody the philosophy, vision and core values of the Sheriff's Office. These principles serve to provide a solid foundation upon which the CCSO establishes its policy, strategy, tactics and actions.

In completing its mission, the CCSO as a whole and each of its employees are responsible for adhering to all principles, and their associated values.

By adherence to these principles, the CCSO will endeavor to build a partnership with the community and maintain a high level of public trust in the Sheriff's Office.

Principle 1 – Respect

Employees are delegated with duties and authorities, granted by the people, to protect and serve the community. Respect for life and the dignity of persons serve as a basis for decisions, actions and the treatment of others.

Associated Values

ATTENTION TO DUTY. As most work is performed without close supervision, the responsibility for the proper performance of an employee's duty lies primarily with that employee. An employee, therefore, must be steadfast in supporting the safety of the community and enforcing the law. Anything less violates the trust placed in the employee by the people.

COURTESY. Effective law enforcement depends on a high degree of cooperation between the CCSO and the public it serves. The practice of courtesy in all public contacts encourages understanding and appreciation.

Principle 2 – Balance

The CCSO recognizes its unique role in the community. While primarily a law enforcement organization, it's often called upon to provide services beyond traditional police functions. Each employee balances his or her efforts based on the



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public's requests, expectations and trust. The quality of County life warrants a reasonable approach to the Sheriff's Office deployment of personnel, resources and efforts.

Associated Values

PREVENTION OF CRIME. Crime is a concern for County residents and Sheriff's Office employees have a duty to prevent and deter crime; and when that fails, to apprehend those who violate the law.

DETERRENCE OF CRIME. While there are crimes that cannot be deterred, crimes committed against property and against innocent victims in public places are reduced by Sheriff's patrol. The deterrence of crime requires the investigation of behavior, which reasonably appears to be criminally directed.

APPREHENSION OF OFFENDERS. The administration of criminal justice consists of the identification, arrest, prosecution, punishment and rehabilitation of a law violator and it has as its objective the voluntary compliance with the law as an alternative to punishment. Once a crime has been committed, CCSO will strive to initiate the criminal justice process by identifying and arresting the perpetrator, to obtain necessary evidence and to cooperate in the prosecution of the case.

RECOVERY AND RETURN OF PROPERTY. The loss of property, as well as the other costs from crime, is ultimately borne by its victims. To minimize the losses due to crime, the CCSO makes every reasonable effort to recover stolen property, to identify its owners and to ensure its prompt return.

MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC. To facilitate the safe and expeditious movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, the CCSO enforces traffic laws; investigates traffic crashes, and directs traffic. To enforce compliance with traffic laws and to develop driver awareness of the causes of traffic crashes, the CCSO appropriately warns, cites, and/or arrests traffic law violators.

PUBLIC SERVICE. Often, because there are no other public or private agencies available, the public relies upon the CCSO for assistance and advice in many routine and emergency situations. Saving lives and aiding the injured, locating lost persons, keeping the peace are basic services provided by the CCSO. To satisfy these requests, the CCSO responds to calls for service and renders such aid or advice as is necessitated or indicated by the situation.



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PRIORITY OF HANDLING CALLS FOR SERVICE. It is not always possible for the Sheriff's Office to respond to every call for service; therefore, the CCSO must endeavor to organize available resources to provide efficient service to meet our goals.

Principle 3 – Fairness

Each employee of the CCSO is entrusted to be equitable, fair and just in their interactions with all persons regardless of race, ethnic background, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, national origin, economic status, age, cultural group or any other identifiable group.

Associated Values

EMPLOYEE CONTACTS WITH THE PUBLIC. In each contact with the public, an employee must be aware that his/her actions, appearance and statements represent the CCSO. For this reason, an employee should be fair, impartial and conduct themselves in a businesslike manner. Statements to the public must be the result of considered judgment and absent of personal opinion, bias or editorial comment.

RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY. The CCSO should be responsive to the needs and problems of the community. While the law governs the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office, the policies formulated to guide the enforcement of the law must include consideration of the public will. This responsiveness must be manifested at all levels within the CCSO by a willingness to listen and by a genuine concern for the problems of individuals or groups.

Principle 4 – Integrity

The law enforcement profession must stand and represent to the people a strong, incorruptible force upon which the people can rely for protection, support and aid. Honesty, openness and personal example by employees provide a foundation for continued public trust, confidence and cooperation. In its relations with its own employees, the public and the criminal justice system, the CCSO must remain straightforward, sincere and honorable.



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COMPLIANCE WITH LAWFUL ORDERS. CCSO employees will comply with lawful orders, commands, directives, written policy or procedures. Failure to do so may result in progressive discipline.

DISCREDIT ON THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE PROFESSION. CCSO employees hold a position of trust within the community requiring each employee to keep unsullied both their professional and personal life. Every employee, through personal and professional example, is to hold true to his or her oath of office and keep above reproach his or her relationship with the community.

DISCIPLINE. It is essential that public confidence be maintained in the ability of the Sheriff's Office to investigate and properly adjudicate complaints against its employees. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has the responsibility to seek out and discipline those whose conduct discredits the CCSO or impairs effective operations. The right of the employees as well as those of the public must be preserved, and any investigation or hearing arising from a complaint must be conducted in a fair manner with the truth as its primary objective.

LOYALTY. In the performance of the duty to serve society, an employee is often called upon to make difficult decisions. Discretion must be exercised in situations where the employee's rights, liabilities, and those of the CCSO hinge upon the employee's conduct and judgment. Each employee shall faithfully apply the rule of law, CCSO objectives, and discharge of one's duty.

Principle 5 – Ethical Performance

In a position of public trust, CCSO employees are held to a higher standard of conduct and with the expectation of setting the example for others. Decisions made by employees have extensive and varied implications for those persons involved and the community at large. Ethical performance and behavior by the Sheriff's Office employee provides a foundation upon which the community's quality of life rests. When the employees represent and stand for noble principles, repel corruption and adhere to the law, the community and its quality of life remain firm.



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ACTION BASED ON LEGAL JUSTIFICATION. With each situation, either what is reasonable in terms of appropriate employee action or what constitutes probable cause, will vary. Different facts may justify an investigation, a detention, a search, an arrest, or no action at all. In every case, an employee must act reasonably within the limits of his or her authority as defined by constitutional law, statute, judicial interpretation and other guiding tenets.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF SERVICE. A person calling for CCSO assistance expects to be provided with a service. As a practical matter, the extent of the service may necessarily be limited, but, regardless of its extent, a professional quality of service should be rendered in all cases.

NATURE OF THE TASK. Decisions in law enforcement operations are frequently made in an instant, and the lives of employees and community members may depend upon the quality of those decisions. An employee is confronted in stressful situations with both criminal and non-criminal behavior; however, he/she must be capable of making a reasonable response in both cases. Each employee will ensure his or her actions are morally justified and lawful, appropriate to the known facts of the situation, and based upon his or her experience, training and judgment.

Principle 6 – Reverence for the Law

In enforcing the law, Sheriff's Office employees must act within the law as set forth in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, State of Oregon Statutes and judicial interpretation. Their purpose is to provide for enforcement of the law with fundamental fairness and equity. When enforcing the law, employees must recognize the constitutional rights of accused persons, and conduct themselves with proper adherence to those rights.

Since the Sheriff's Office enforces the law, employees must not break it and must set the example for members of our community.

Associated Values

RESPECT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. No person shall be deprived of their constitutional rights. An employee who lawfully acts within the scope of his or her authority does not deprive persons of their civil liberties. The



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Sheriff's Office employee, may within the scope of his or her authority, make reasonable inquiries, conduct investigations, and arrest on probable cause.

Summary Statement

Compliance to these principles brings benefit to the Sheriff's Office and employees alike; personal respect, public esteem and cooperation, and effective law enforcement fail with their disregard.



HONESTY * COURAGE * JUSTICE