

Oath of Office and Canons of Ethics

102.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that oaths, when appropriate, are administered to department members.

102.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Louisville Police Department that, when appropriate, department members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Department and the dedication of its members to their duties.

102.3 OATH OF OFFICE

All department members, when appropriate, shall take and subscribe to the oaths or affirmations applicable to their positions. Prior to assuming the duties of a peace officer, certified members shall be required to affirm the oath of office. The oath shall be administered by the Municipal Judge and signed by the Chief of Police. The officer shall also be required to sign. The oath requires the officer to swear and affirm the oath of office expressing commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights in discharging the duties of a law enforcement officer (Colo. Const. art. XII, § 8). The oath shall be as follows:

I (employee name) do solemnly swear or affirm that I will defend, enforce and support the Constitution and laws of the United States, the State of Colorado, and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Louisville, to which I have been appointed. That I will protect the rights, lives, and property of all citizens; and uphold the honor of the police profession, with my life if need be.

I will ensure public safety and quality of life improvements in partnership with our community, demonstrating the Louisville Police Department's Core Values of Collaboration, Communication, Integrity, Leadership, Preparedness, and Respect.

This I solemnly swear.

Code Enforcement Officers shall be required to affirm the Code Enforcement officer Oath of Office. The oath shall be as follows:

I, (employee name), do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will defend, enforce and support the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Louisville, to which I have been appointed. That I will protect the rights and property of all citizens; and uphold the honor of my profession.

I will ensure public safety and quality of life improvements in partnership with our community, demonstrating the Louisville Police Department's Core Values of Collaboration, Communication, Integrity, Leadership, Preparedness, and Respect.

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This I solemnly swear.

102.4 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The oath of office shall be filed in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

102.5 CANONS OF ETHICS

A police department exists to serve the community by protecting life and property; by preventing crime; by enforcing laws; and by maintaining order for all citizens. Central to our mission are the values that guide our work and decisions, and help us contribute to the quality of life in our community. For everyone, values are the basis for our beliefs and actions. The recognition and statement of values by a police department is important because values are the foundation of everything we do and stand for.

We hold our values constantly before us to teach and remind us and the community we serve, of our ideals. They are the foundation upon which our rules and regulations, policies, and operating procedures are built.

Accordingly, the Louisville Police department adopts a code of professional conduct comprised of nine Canons of Ethics, with explanatory statements in the form of Ethical Standards. These statements of principals and standards are guides that have directed the formulation of the policies and procedures contained in this manual. Further, they are intended to serve and assist members of this department in making judgments as to the proper course of behavior in instances not covered by a specific written rule, regulation or other form of guidance.

CANON ONE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AND ALL LAWS ENACTED OR ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO LEGALLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY.

STANDARD 1.1 Law enforcement officers shall recognize that the primary responsibility of their profession and of the individual officer is the protection of the people within the jurisdiction of the United States through upholding of their laws, the most important of which are the Constitution of the United States and State Constitutions and laws derived therefrom.

STANDARD 1.2 Law enforcement officers shall be aware of the extent and the limitations of their authority in the enforcement of the law.

STANDARD 1.3 Law enforcement officers shall diligently study principles and new enactment's of the laws they enforce.

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STANDARD 1.4 Law enforcement officers shall be responsible for keeping abreast of current case law as applied to their duties.

STANDARD 1.5 Law enforcement officers shall endeavor to uphold the spirit of the law, as opposed to enforcing merely the letter of the law.

STANDARD 1.6 Law enforcement officers shall respect and uphold the dignity, human rights, and Constitutional rights of all persons.

CANON TWO

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL BE AWARE OF AND SHALL USE PROPER AND ETHICAL PROCEDURES IN DISCHARGING THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

STANDARD 2.1 Law enforcement officers shall be aware of their lawful authority to use that force reasonably necessary in securing compliance with their lawful enforcement duties.

STANDARD 2.2 Law enforcement officers shall truthfully, completely, and impartially report, testify, and present evidence in all matters of an official nature.

STANDARD 2.3 Law enforcement officers shall follow legal practices in such areas as interrogation, arrest or detention, searches, seizures, use of informants, and collection and preservation of evidence.

STANDARD 2.4 Law enforcement officers shall follow the principles of integrity, fairness, and impartiality in connection with their duties.

CANON THREE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL REGARD THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES AS A PUBLIC TRUST AND SHALL RECOGNIZE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PEOPLE WHOM THEY ARE SWORN TO PROTECT AND SERVE.

STANDARD 3.1 Law enforcement officers, as professionals, shall maintain an awareness of those factors affecting their responsibilities.

STANDARD 3.2 Law enforcement officers, during their tour of duty, shall diligently devote their time and attention to the effective and professional performance of their responsibilities.

STANDARD 3.3 Law enforcement officers shall ensure that they are prepared for the effective and efficient undertaking of their assignment.

STANDARD 3.5 Law enforcement officers shall be prepared to and shall respond effectively to the demands of their office.

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STANDARD 3.6 Law enforcement officers, with due regard for compassion, shall maintain an objective and impartial attitude in official contacts.

STANDARD 3.7 Law enforcement officers shall not allow their personal convictions, beliefs, prejudices, or biases to interfere unreasonably with their official acts or decisions.

STANDARD 3.8 Law enforcement officers shall recognize that their allegiance is first to the people, then to their profession and the governmental entity or agency that employs them.

CANON FOUR

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WILL SO CONDUCT THEIR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE THAT THEY EXEMPLIFY THE HIGH STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY, TRUST, AND MORALITY DEMANDED OF A MEMBER OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PROFESSION.

STANDARD 4.1 Law enforcement officers shall refrain from consuming intoxicating beverages to the extent that it results in impairment which brings discredit upon the profession of their employing agency, or renders them unfit for their next tour of duty.

STANDARD 4.2 Law enforcement officers shall not consume intoxicating beverages while on duty, except to the degree permitted in the performance of official duties, and under no circumstances while in uniform.

STANDARD 4.3 Law enforcement officers shall not use any narcotics, hallucinogens, or any other controlled substance except when legally prescribed. When such controlled substances are prescribed, officers shall notify their superior officer prior to reporting for duty.

STANDARD 4.4 Law enforcement officers shall maintain a level of conduct in their personal and business affairs in keeping with the high standard of the peace officer profession. Officers shall not participate in any incident involving moral turpitude.

STANDARD 4.5 Law enforcement officers shall not undertake financial obligations which they know or reasonably should know they will be unable to meet and shall pay all just debts when due.

STANDARD 4.6 Law enforcement officers shall not engage in illegal political activities.

STANDARD 4.7 Law enforcement officers shall not permit or authorize for personal gain the use of their name or photograph and official title identifying them as Law enforcement officers in connection with testimonials or advertisements for any commodity, commercial enterprise, or commercial service which is not the product of the officer involved.

STANDARD 4.8 Law enforcement officers shall not engage in any activity which would create a conflict of interest or would be in violation of any law.

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STANDARD 4.9 Law enforcement officers shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner which does not discredit the law enforcement officer profession or their employing agency.

STANDARD 4.10 Law enforcement officers shall not be disrespectful, insolent, mutinous, or insubordinate in attitude or conduct.

STANDARD 4.11 Law enforcement officers shall be courteous and respectful in their official dealings with the public, fellow officers, superiors and subordinates.

STANDARD 4.12 Law enforcement officers shall not engage in any strike, work obstruction or abstention, in whole or in part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities, except as authorized by law.

STANDARD 4.13 Law enforcement officers shall 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.

CANON FIVE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL RECOGNIZE THAT OUR SOCIETY HOLDS THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL AS A PARAMOUNT PRECEPT WHICH SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED UPON WITHOUT, JUST, LEGAL, AND NECESSARY CAUSE.

STANDARD 5.1 Law enforcement officers shall not restrict the freedom of individuals, whether by detention or arrest, except to the extent necessary to legally or reasonably apply the law.

STANDARD 5.2 Law enforcement officers shall recognize the rights of individuals to be free from capricious or arbitrary acts which deny or abridge their fundamental rights as guaranteed by law.

STANDARD 5.3 Law enforcement officers shall not use their official position to detain any individual, or to restrict the freedom of any individual, except in the manner and means permitted or prescribed by law.

CANON SIX

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL ASSIST IN MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY AND COMPETENCE OF THE PEACE OFFICER PROFESSION.

STANDARD 6.1 Peace officers shall recognize that every person in our society is entitled to professional, effective, and efficient law enforcement services.

STANDARD 6.2 Law enforcement officers shall perform their duties in such a manner as to discourage double standards.

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STANDARD 6.3 Law enforcement officers shall conduct themselves so as to set exemplary standards of performance for all law enforcement personnel.

STANDARD 6.4 Law enforcement officers shall maintain the integrity of their profession through complete disclosure of those who violate any of these rules of conduct, violate any law, or who conduct themselves in a manner which tends to discredit the profession.

STANDARD 6.5 Law enforcement officers shall have responsibility for reporting to proper authorities any known information which would serve to disqualify candidates from transferring within or entering the profession.

STANDARD 6.6 Law enforcement officers shall be responsible for maintaining a level of education and training that will keep them abreast of current techniques, concepts, laws, and requirements of the profession.

STANDARD 6.7 Chief executive Law enforcement officers shall accept the responsibility of utilizing all available resources and the authority of their office to maintain the integrity of their agency and the competency of their officers.

STANDARD 6.8 Law enforcement officers shall assume a leadership role in furthering their profession by encouraging and assisting in the education and training of other members of the profession.

CANON SEVEN

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL COOPERATE WITH OTHER OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE USING LEGAL AND ETHICAL MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PEACE OFFICER PROFESSION.

STANDARD 7.1 Law enforcement officers, within legal and agency guidelines, shall share with personnel both within and outside their agency, appropriate information that will facilitate the achievement of criminal justice goals or objectives.

STANDARD 7.2 Law enforcement officers, whether requested through appropriate channels or called upon individually, shall render needed assistance to any other officer in the proper performance of their duty.

STANDARD 7.3 Law enforcement officers shall, within legal and agency guidelines, endeavor to communicate to the people of their community the goals and objectives of the profession, and keep them apprised of conditions which threaten the maintenance of an ordered society.

CANON EIGHT

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LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL NOT COMPROMISE THEIR INTEGRITY, OR THAT OF THEIR AGENCY OR PROFESSION, BY ACCEPTING, GIVING OR SOLICITING ANY GRATUITY.

STANDARD 8.1 Law enforcement officers shall refuse to offer, give, or receive gifts, favors or gratuities, either large or small, which can be reasonably interpreted as capable of influencing official acts or judgments. This standard is not intended to isolate Law enforcement officers from normal social practices, or to preclude gifts among friends, associates, or relatives, where appropriate.

STANDARD 8.2 Peace officers shall not consider their badge of office as a license designed to provide them with special favor or consideration.

CANON NINE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHALL OBSERVE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM THROUGH ANY SOURCE, AS IT RELATES TO THE PEACE OFFICER PROFESSION.

STANDARD 9.1 Law enforcement officers shall be aware of and shall meticulously observe all legal restrictions on the release and dissemination of information.

STANDARD 9.2 Law enforcement officers shall treat as confidential the official business of their employing agency, and shall release or disseminate such information solely in an authorized manner

STANDARD 9.3 Law enforcement officers shall treat as confidential that information confided to them personally. They shall disclose such information as required in the proper performance of their duties.

STANDARD 9.4 Law enforcement officers shall neither disclose nor use for their personal interest any confidential information acquired by them in the course of their official duties.

STANDARD 9.5 Law enforcement officers shall treat as confidential all matters relating to investigations, internal affairs, and personnel.