

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 1.14



SUBJECT: Ethics		NUMBER: 1.14
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/27/2023 REVIEW DATE: Annually		MACP Standard Impact: 1.5.2
REPLACES AND RESCINDS: General Oder #16 - Ethics	DISTRIBUTION: All Personnel	NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

This order replaces and rescinds all previously issued orders, procedures, rules and regulations, notices and/or practices in conflict with this General Order.

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to adopt the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and to specifically define the ethical expectations of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office for its members.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office that members shall conduct themselves both on and off duty in a manner that reflects the high ethical standards consistent with the values and mission established by this agency and the expectations of the Office of the Sheriff and the community that they serve.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Conduct (On and Off Duty)

1. Members of the Sheriff's Office shall comply with all agency Rules and Regulations and State legal guidelines regarding professional conduct, practices and interactions when dealing with the general public, any inmate under the jurisdiction of this agency, any criminal court or the Department of Corrections.
 - a. For the purposes of this Order, 'under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office' shall be interpreted to be "under the physical control of this agency either by virtue of incarceration or Work Release."
2. Members shall respect and protect the legal and civil rights of all individuals.
3. Members shall exercise honesty, integrity and objectivity at all times.
4. Members shall not discriminate against any individual based on race, ethnic background, national origin, immigration status, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability or political affiliation.
5. Members shall exhibit loyalty in all matters pertaining to the duties of this agency.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 1.14

6. Members shall exercise prudent use of information acquired in the performance of their duties so as not to use confidential information for personal gain or in a manner which would be detrimental to the welfare of this agency.
 - a. This section includes the release of information to the news media or the release of LEIN/CLEMIS (Law Enforcement Information Network/Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System) information.
7. Members shall not use their authority or official position to promote personal or political interests.
8. Members shall not knowingly employ, contract with or work with any inmate or individual under the jurisdiction of this agency or any other law enforcement agency, the Department of Corrections or any criminal court.
9. Members shall avoid any personal or financial conflict of interest which may impair their ability to perform their duties in an objective, equitable manner.
10. Members are required to report to the Office of the Sheriff any personal or financial interest in which they may be involved that could be viewed as a conflict of interest.
11. Members shall not engage in illegal activity or ignore/advocate the illegal behavior of others, whether it is in connection with their official duties or on their own time.
12. Members shall not utilize inmate labor for their own profit or advantage.
13. Members shall not accept favors, gifts and/or services in the form of labor from inmates, their families or any other person on behalf of an inmate.
14. Members shall not assign or permit to be assigned inmates to any profit-making organization.
15. Members shall not knowingly involve themselves in a relationship with an incarcerated person, convicted felon or any person under investigation or suspicion of illegal activities which may compromise their official position or give the appearance of any impropriety.
16. Members have an obligation to report, and shall without reservation report, directly to the Office of the Sheriff, any suspicion of illegal, improper or unethical behavior which affects the integrity of this agency.

B. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:

"As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder, and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner which does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule, develop self-restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed, in both my personal life and official, I will be

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 1.14

exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of bribery nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession.... law enforcement.”

C. Training

1. All agency personnel are required to understand and adopt the contents of this general order, including the adopted Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. All agency personnel will be required to complete Ethics training on a triennial basis {once every three (3) years}. **(MACP Standard 1.5.2 a,b)**



ISSUED BY: Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard