

Skamania County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

BLANK FOR CHIEF'S PREFACE

Skamania County Sheriff's Office

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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 that does not bring discredit to me or to 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 both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law 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 ever 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 corruption or 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 reasonable 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.

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Chapter 1 - Law Enforcement Role and Authority

Law Enforcement Authority

100.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the authority of the members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to perform their functions based on established legal authority.

100.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to limit its members to only exercise the authority granted to them by law.

While this office recognizes the power of peace officers to make arrests and take other enforcement action, deputies are encouraged to use sound discretion in the enforcement of the law. This office does not tolerate abuse of law enforcement authority.

100.3 PEACE OFFICER POWERS

Sworn members of this office are authorized to exercise peace officer powers pursuant to applicable state law.

100.3.1 ARREST AUTHORITY

The arrest authority of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office includes (RCW 10.31.100):

- (a) When a peace officer has probable cause to believe that a person has committed or is committing a felony, the peace officer shall have the authority to arrest the person without a warrant.
- (b) A peace officer may arrest a person without a warrant for committing a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor only when the offense is committed in the presence of a peace officer, except as provided in RCW 10.31.100 (e.g., when there is probable cause for certain offenses that involve domestic violence, driving under the influence, motor vehicle accidents).
- (c) A peace officer may arrest a person in compliance with an arrest warrant after confirming the existence and extradition. A peace officer making an arrest must inform the person that the peace officer is acting under the authority of a warrant and must provide the person with a copy of the warrant at the time of the arrest or arrival at the holding facility.

100.3.2 OREGON AUTHORITY

Sworn members of this office who enter the state of Oregon in order to provide or attempt to provide law enforcement assistance have Oregon peace officer authority within 50 miles of the Washington-Oregon border under the following circumstances (ORS 133.405):

- (a) In response to a request for law enforcement assistance initiated by an Oregon sheriff, constable, marshal, municipal police officer or member of the Oregon State Police.

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- (b) In response to a reasonable belief that emergency law enforcement assistance is necessary to preserve life and circumstances make it impractical for Oregon law enforcement officials to formally request assistance.
- (c) For the purpose of assisting Oregon law enforcement officials with emergency assistance in response to criminal activity, traffic accidents, emergency incidents or other similar public safety situations, whether or not an Oregon law enforcement official is present at the scene of the incident.

Skamania County Sheriff's Office deputies have no authority to enforce Oregon traffic or motor vehicle laws.

Whenever practicable, deputies should seek permission from a office supervisor before entering Oregon to provide law enforcement services. As soon as practicable, deputies exercising law enforcement authority in Oregon shall submit any appropriate written reports concerning the incident to the Oregon agency having primary jurisdiction over the area in which the incident occurred.

100.4 INTERSTATE PEACE OFFICER POWERS

Peace officer powers may be extended to other states:

- (a) As applicable under interstate compacts, memorandums of understanding or mutual aid agreements in compliance with the laws of each state.
- (b) When a deputy enters Idaho or Oregon in fresh pursuit of a person believed to have committed a felony (Idaho Code 19-701; ORS 133.430).

When a deputy makes an arrest in Idaho or Oregon, the arresting deputy shall cause the person to be taken without delay to a magistrate in the county where the arrest was made (Idaho Code 19-702; ORS 133.440).

100.5 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All members shall observe and comply with every person's clearly established rights under the United States and Washington Constitutions.

Law Enforcement Certification

101.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

All sworn deputies employed by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall receive certification by CJTC prior to assuming law enforcement duties and responsibilities, and shall begin attending an approved academy within the first six months of employment.

Oath of Office

102.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

102.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that, when appropriate, office members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Office and the dedication of its members to their duties.

102.3 OATH OF OFFICE

All office members, when appropriate, shall take and subscribe to the oaths or affirmations applicable to their positions (RCW 43.101.021).

102.4 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The oath of office shall be filed in accordance with the established records retention schedule and any applicable state and/or local law.

Policy Manual

103.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The manual of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office is hereby established and shall be referred to as the Policy Manual or the manual. The manual is a statement of the current policies, rules and guidelines of this office. All members are to conform to the provisions of this manual.

All prior and existing manuals, orders and regulations that are in conflict with this manual are rescinded, except to the extent that portions of existing manuals, procedures, orders and other regulations that have not been included herein shall remain in effect, provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of this manual.

103.2 POLICY

Except where otherwise expressly stated, the provisions of this manual shall be considered as guidelines. It is recognized that the work of law enforcement is not always predictable and circumstances may arise which warrant departure from these guidelines. It is the intent of this manual to be viewed from an objective standard, taking into consideration the sound discretion entrusted to members of this office under the circumstances reasonably available at the time of any incident.

103.2.1 DISCLAIMER

The provisions contained in the Policy Manual are not intended to create an employment contract nor any employment rights or entitlements. The policies contained within this manual are for the internal use of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office and shall not be construed to create a higher standard or duty of care for civil or criminal liability against the County, its officials or members. Violations of any provision of any policy contained within this manual shall only form the basis for office administrative action, training or discipline. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office reserves the right to revise any policy content, in whole or in part.

103.3 AUTHORITY

The Sheriff shall be considered the ultimate authority for the content and adoption of the provisions of this manual and shall ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws. The Sheriff or the authorized designee is authorized to issue Special Orders, which shall modify those provisions of the manual to which they pertain. Special Orders shall remain in effect until such time as they may be permanently incorporated into the manual.

103.4 DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms shall have these assigned meanings throughout the Policy Manual, unless it is apparent from the content that they have a different meaning:

Adult - Any person 18 years of age or older.

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations.

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County - The County of Skamania.

Non-sworn - Employees and volunteers who are not sworn peace officers.

CJTC - The Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Office/SCSO - The Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

DOL - The Department of Licensing.

Employee - Any person employed by the Office.

Juvenile - Any person under the age of 18 years.

Manual - The Skamania County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual.

May - Indicates a permissive, discretionary or conditional action.

Member - Any person employed or appointed by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, including:

- Full- and part-time employees
- Sworn peace officers
- Reserve, auxiliary Deputies
- Non-sworn employees
- Volunteers

Deputy - Those employees, regardless of rank, who are sworn peace officer employees of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

On-duty - A member's status during the period when he/she is actually engaged in the performance of his/her assigned duties.

Order - A written or verbal instruction issued by a superior.

Rank - The title of the classification held by a deputy.

RCW - Revised Code of Washington (Example: RCW 9.41.040).

Shall or will - Indicates a mandatory action.

Should - Indicates a generally required or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.

Supervisor - A person in a position of authority that may include responsibility for hiring, transfer, suspension, promotion, discharge, assignment, reward or discipline of other office members, directing the work of other members or having the authority to adjust grievances. The supervisory exercise of authority may not be merely routine or clerical in nature but requires the use of independent judgment.

The term "supervisor" may also include any person (e.g., deputy-in-charge, lead or senior worker) given responsibility for the direction of the work of others without regard to a formal job title, rank or compensation.

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When there is only one office member on-duty, that person may also be the supervisor, except when circumstances reasonably require the notification or involvement of the member's off-duty supervisor or an on-call supervisor.

USC - United States Code.

WAC - The Washington Administrative Code (Example: WAC 296-24-567).

WSP - The Washington State Patrol.

103.5 ISSUING THE POLICY MANUAL

An electronic version of the Policy Manual will be made available to all members on the office network for viewing and printing. No changes shall be made to the manual without authorization from the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

Each member shall acknowledge that he/she has been provided access to, and has had the opportunity to review the Policy Manual and Special Orders. Members shall seek clarification as needed from an appropriate supervisor for any provisions that they do not fully understand.

103.6 PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE POLICY MANUAL

The Sheriff will ensure that the Policy Manual is periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

103.7 REVISIONS TO POLICIES

All revisions to the Policy Manual will be provided to each member on or before the date the policy becomes effective. Each member will be required to acknowledge that he/she has reviewed the revisions and shall seek clarification from an appropriate supervisor as needed.

Members are responsible for keeping abreast of all Policy Manual revisions.

Each Division Chief will ensure that members under his/her command are aware of any Policy Manual revision.

All office members suggesting revision of the contents of the Policy Manual shall forward their written suggestions to their Division Chiefs, who will consider the recommendations and forward them to the command staff as appropriate.

Chapter 2 - Organization and Administration

Organizational Structure and Responsibility

200.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The organizational structure of this office is designed to create an efficient means to accomplish our mission and goals and to provide for the best possible service to the public.

200.2 DIVISIONS

The Sheriff is responsible for administering and managing the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. There are five divisions in the Sheriff's Office as follows:

- Administration Division
- Patrol Division
- Investigation Division
- Civil
- Corrections/ Dispatch

200.2.1 ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division is commanded by an assigned Undersheriff, whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Administration division. The Administration Division consists of Technical Services and Administrative Services.

200.2.2 PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is commanded by an assigned Undersheriff, whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Patrol Division. The Patrol Division consists of Uniformed Patrol and Special Operations, which includes Traffic, K-9, and Search & Rescue etc..

200.2.3 INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Investigation Division is commanded by an assigned Undersheriff, whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Investigation Division. The Investigation Division consists of the Investigations Unit, Evidence Room, and the Sex Offender Classification Unit..

200.3 COMMAND PROTOCOL

200.3.1 SUCCESSION OF COMMAND

The Sheriff exercises command over all personnel in the Office. The chain of command will be utilized as designated in the current command structure. [See attachment: Org Chart SCSO.JPG](#)

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Organizational Structure and Responsibility

200.3.2 UNITY OF COMMAND

The principles of unity of command ensure efficient supervision and control within the Office. Generally, each employee shall be accountable to one supervisor at any time for a given assignment or responsibility. Except where specifically delegated authority may exist by policy or special assignment (e.g., K-9, SWAT), any supervisor may temporarily direct any subordinate if an operational necessity exists.

200.3.3 ORDERS

Members shall respond to and make a good faith and reasonable effort to comply with the lawful order of superior officers and other proper authority.

Special Order

201.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Special Orders establish an interdepartmental communication that may be used by the Sheriff to make immediate changes to policy and procedure consistent with the current Memorandum of Understanding. Special Orders will immediately modify or change and supersede sections of this manual to which they pertain.

201.1.1 SPECIAL ORDER PROTOCOL

Special Orders will be incorporated into the manual as required upon approval of Staff. Special Orders will modify existing policies or create a new policy as appropriate and will be rescinded upon incorporation into the manual.

All existing Special Orders have now been incorporated in the updated Policy Manual as of the below revision date.

Any Special Orders issued after publication of the manual shall be numbered consecutively starting with the last two digits of the year, followed by the number "01" For example, 08-01 signifies the first Special Order for the year 2008.

201.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

201.2.1 STAFF

The staff shall review and approve revisions of the Policy Manual, which will incorporate changes originally made by a Special Order.

201.2.2 SHERIFF

The Sheriff shall issue all Special Orders.

201.3 ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIAL ORDERS

All employees are required to read and obtain any necessary clarification of all Special Orders. All employees are required to acknowledge in writing the receipt and review of any new Special Order. Signed acknowledgement forms and/or e-mail receipts showing an employee's acknowledgement will be maintained by the Training Manager.

Emergency Management Plan

202.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The County has prepared an Emergency Management Plan Manual for use by all employees in the event of a major disaster, civil disturbance, mass arrest or other emergency event. The manual provides for a strategic response by all employees and assigns specific responsibilities in the event the plan is activated.

The County Emergency Management Plan is written in accordance with the State of Washington's comprehensive emergency management plan and program, and has been approved for local use (RCW 38.52.070). This plan provides guidance for County emergency operations within and outside its borders.

202.1.1 SKAMANIA CODES

An emergency management organization has been established by the County of Skamania. This ordinance has been approved by the County Council (WAC 118-30-050).

202.2 ACTIVATING THE EMERGENCY PLAN

The Emergency Management Plan may be activated by the Sheriff, the highest ranking official on-duty or a responder who is at the scene of a major emergency.

Upon activation of the plan, the Sheriff or the authorized designee should, if the need is anticipated, contact the State Emergency Operations Center to assist with a mutual aid response in which local, state and federal law enforcement agencies provide resources to this office.

202.2.1 RECALL OF PERSONNEL

In the event that the Emergency Management Plan is activated, all employees of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office are subject to immediate recall. Employees may also be subject to recall during extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

Failure to respond to an order to report for duty may result in discipline.

202.3 LOCATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The manual for the employees is available in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). All supervisors should familiarize themselves with the Emergency Management Plan and what roles police personnel will play when the plan is implemented. The Training Manager should ensure that all personnel receive periodic training on the Emergency Management Plan.

The Emergency Management Coordinator or the authorized designee shall ensure that all copies of the Emergency Management Plan manual are kept current and available to all personnel.

202.4 BUILDING EVACUATION PLAN

In the event of a disaster or emergency which requires evacuation of the public safety services building, all employees shall follow implemented evacuation plans and posted exit strategies. The

Emergency Management Plan

posted exit strategies shall include any special directions for physically impaired employees (WAC 296-24-567).

202.5 UPDATING OF MANUALS

The Sheriff or the authorized designee shall review the Emergency Management Plan Manual at least once every two years to ensure that the manual conforms to any revisions made by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) (WAC 118-30-060(7)).

202.6 TRAINING

The Office should provide annual training in the Emergency Management Plan for all supervisors and other appropriate personnel. All supervisors should familiarize themselves with the Emergency Management Plan and the roles sheriff's personnel will play when the plan is implemented. Training should incorporate a full or partial exercise, tabletop or command staff discussion.

Training

203.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this office to administer a training program that will provide for the professional growth and continued development of its personnel. By doing so, the Office will ensure its personnel possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional level of service that meets the needs of the community.

203.2 PHILOSOPHY

The Office seeks to provide ongoing training and encourages all personnel to participate in advanced training and formal education on a continual basis. Training is provided within the confines of funding, requirements of a given assignment, staffing levels, and legal mandates. Whenever possible, the Office will use courses certified by the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC).

203.3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Training Program are to:

- (a) Enhance the level of law enforcement service to the public.
- (b) Increase the technical expertise and overall effectiveness of office members.
- (c) Provide for continued professional development of office members.

203.4 TRAINING PLAN

A training plan for all employees will be developed and maintained by the Training Manager. It is the responsibility of the Training Manager to maintain, review, and update the training plan on an annual basis. The plan will ensure, at minimum, the following:

- (a) All sworn members will successfully complete an annual in-service training program of no less than 24 hours that includes the training required by the CJTC (WAC 139-05-300).
 - 1. Successful completion of the CJTC's two-hour annual online crisis intervention course shall be included in the 24 hours ([RC](#) [W 43.101.427](#)).
- (b) All deputies must complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing de-escalation and mental health training every three years as provided in WAC 139-11-020 and WAC 139-11-060.
 - 1. This training may substitute the annual 24 hours in-service requirement under WAC 139-05-300 in the year the deputy completes the 40-hour violence de-escalation training.
- (c) All sworn members will successfully complete an annual in-service training program on the office use of force and deadly force policies.
- (d) All sworn members will successfully complete in-service training on less-than-lethal weapons every two years.

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Training

- (e) Full-time supervisors or managers will receive appropriate training and certification required by CJTC.
- (f) All sworn members will successfully complete the National Incident Management System (NIMS) introductory training course.
- (g) Members who will serve as school resource officers shall receive training for school resource officers (Chapter 38 § 3, 2021 Laws).
 - 1. Training shall include the subject requirements of the safety and security staff training program developed by the educational service districts and completed within the required timeframe (Chapter 38 § 4, 2021 Laws; Chapter 38 § 3, 2021 Laws).
 - 2. Review of applicable school district policies and procedures of duties and responsibilities of school resource officers (RCW 28A.320.124).
- (h) Any request for exemption, waiver, extension, or variance from any requirement of CJTC training must be made under WAC 139-03-030 and corresponding information be made available to the public in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy (WAC 139-11-030).

203.5 TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Training Unit will conduct an annual training-needs assessment of the Office. The needs assessment will be reviewed by staff. Upon approval by the staff, the needs assessment will form the basis for the training plan for the fiscal year.

203.6 TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

Detailed records shall be kept of all in-service training sponsored by or presented on behalf of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. Records should minimally include the following:

- An overview of the course content and/or an instructor lesson plan.
- Names and agency contact information of all attendees.
- Instructor credentials or resume.
- Individual attendee test results (if applicable).
- Course completion roster.

203.7 TRAINING PROCEDURES

- (a) All employees assigned to attend training shall attend unless previously excused by their immediate supervisor. Excused absences from mandatory training should be limited to:
 - 1. Court appearances
 - 2. First choice vacation
 - 3. Sick leave

Training

4. Physical limitations preventing the employee's participation.
 5. Emergency situations
- (b) When an employee is unable to attend mandatory training, that employee shall:
1. Notify his/her supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than one hour prior to the start of training.
 2. Document his/her absence in a memorandum to his/her supervisor.
 3. Make arrangements through his/her supervisor and the Training Manager to attend an alternate date.

203.8 TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Manager shall establish a Training Committee, which will serve to assist with identifying training needs for the Office.

The Training Committee shall be comprised of at least three members, with the senior ranking member of the committee acting as the chairperson. Members should be selected based on their abilities at post-incident evaluation and at assessing related training needs. The Training Manager may remove or replace members of the committee at his/her discretion.

The Training Committee should review certain incidents to determine whether training would likely improve future outcomes or reduce or prevent the recurrence of the undesirable issues related to the incident. Specific incidents the Training Committee should review include but are not limited to:

- (a) Any incident involving the death or serious injury of an employee.
- (b) Incidents involving a high risk of death, serious injury or civil liability.
- (c) Incidents identified by a supervisor as appropriate to review to identify possible training needs.

The Training Committee should convene on a regular basis as determined by the Training Manager to review the identified incidents. The committee shall determine by consensus whether a training need exists and then submit written recommendations of its findings to the Training Manager. The recommendation should not identify specific facts of any incidents, such as identities of employees involved or the date, time, and location of the incident, but should focus on the type of training being recommended.

The Training Manager will consider the recommendations of the committee and determine what training should be addressed, taking into consideration the mission of the Office and available resources.

203.9 DAILY TRAINING BULLETINS

The Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs) are contained in a web-accessed system that provides training on the Skamania County Sheriff's Office policy manual and other important topics.

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Generally, one training bulletin is available for each day of the month. However, the number of DTBs may be adjusted by the Training Manager.

Personnel assigned to participate in DTBs shall only use login credentials assigned to them by the Training Manager. Personnel should not share their password with others and should frequently change their password to protect the security of the system. After each session, employees should log off the system to prevent unauthorized access. The content of the DTBs is copyrighted material and shall not be shared with others outside of the Office.

Employees who are assigned to participate in the DTB program should complete each DTB at the beginning of their shift or as otherwise directed by their supervisor. Employees should not allow uncompleted DTBs to build up over time. Personnel may be required to complete DTBs missed during extended absences (e.g., vacation, medical leave) upon returning to duty. Although the DTB system can be accessed from any internet-active computer, employees shall only take DTBs as part of their on-duty assignment unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

Supervisors will be responsible for monitoring the progress of personnel under their command to ensure compliance with this policy.

Electronic Mail

204.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper use and application of the Office electronic email system by employees of this office. Email is a communication tool available to employees to enhance efficiency in the performance of job duties and is to be used in accordance with generally accepted business practices and current law (e.g., Washington Public Disclosure Act). Messages transmitted over the email system must only be those that involve official business activities or contain information essential to employees for the accomplishment of business-related tasks and/or communication directly related to the business, administration, or practices of the Office.

204.2 EMAIL RIGHT OF PRIVACY

All email messages, including any attachments, that are transmitted over office networks are considered office records and therefore are the property of the office. The Office reserves the right to access, audit or disclose, for any lawful reason, any message, including any attachment, that is transmitted over its email system or that is stored on any office system.

The email system is not a confidential system and therefore is not appropriate for confidential communications. If a communication must be confidential, an alternative method to communicate the message should be used. Employees using the office email system shall have no expectation of privacy concerning communications transmitted over the system.

Employees should not use personal accounts to exchange email or other information that is related to the official business of the Office.

204.3 PROHIBITED USE OF EMAIL

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, and harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the email system will not be tolerated and may result in discipline.

Email messages addressed to the entire office are only to be used for official business related items that are of particular interest to all users and must be approved by the Sheriff or a Division Chief. Personal advertisements are not acceptable.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message under another user's name. Users are strongly encouraged to log off the network when their computer is unattended. This added security measure would minimize the misuse of an individual's email, name and/or password by others.

204.4 EMAIL RECORD MANAGEMENT

Email may, depending upon the individual content, be a public record under the Washington Public Records Act and must be managed in accordance with the established records retention schedule and in compliance with state law.

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Electronic Mail

The Public Records Officer shall ensure that email messages are retained and recoverable as outlined in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

Administrative Communications

205.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Administrative communications of this office are governed by the following policies.

205.2 MEMORANDUMS

Memorandums may be issued periodically by the Sheriff to announce and document all promotions, transfers, hiring of new personnel, separations, personnel and group commendations, or other changes in status.

205.3 CORRESPONDENCE

In order to ensure that the letterhead and name of the Office are not misused, all external correspondence shall be on office letterhead. All office letterhead shall bear the signature element of the Sheriff. Personnel should use office letterhead only for official business and with approval of their supervisor.

205.4 SURVEYS

All surveys made in the name of the Office shall be authorized by the Sheriff or a Division Chief.

Staffing Levels

206.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that proper supervision is available for all shifts. The Office intends to balance the employee's needs against the need to have flexibility and discretion in using personnel to meet operational needs. While balance is desirable, the paramount concern is the need to meet operational requirements of the Office.

Concealed Pistol License

207.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Sheriff is given the statutory responsibility to issue, monitor, and revoke a license to carry a concealed pistol to residents within the community ([RCW 9.41.070](#)). This policy will provide a written process for the application, issuance, and revocation of such licenses.

207.2 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

All applicants for a concealed pistol license shall qualify to receive such a license unless the applicant is ineligible for a license or to possess a pistol under any of the following conditions (RCW 9.41.070):

- (a) The applicant is ineligible or is prohibited to possess a firearm under the provisions of [RCW 9.41.040](#) , [RCW 9.41.045](#) or federal law.
- (b) The applicant's concealed pistol license is in a revoked status.
- (c) The applicant is under twenty-one years of age.
- (d) The applicant is subject to a court order or injunction regarding firearms.
- (e) The applicant is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense.
- (f) The applicant has an outstanding warrant for his/her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor.
- (g) The applicant has been ordered to forfeit a firearm under [RCW 9.41.098](#) (1)(e) within one year before filing an application to carry a pistol concealed on his/her person.
- (h) The applicant has been convicted of a felony or is otherwise restricted from possessing a firearm unless the person has been granted relief from disabilities by the United States Attorney General under 18 USC § 925(c), or [RCW 9.41.040](#) (3) or (4) applies.

Non-immigrant aliens are not eligible for concealed pistol licenses. However, they may be eligible for an alien firearm license for the purposes of hunting and sport shooting, subject to certain eligibility requirements. Any non-immigrant alien who wishes to obtain an alien firearm license should be directed to apply to the sheriff in the county in which he/she resides ([RCW 9.41.173](#)).

207.3 APPLICATION PROCESS AND RENEWAL

The Sheriff has 30 days after the filing of an application of any person to issue a license to carry a concealed pistol. If the applicant does not have a valid permanent Washington driver license or identification card or has not been a resident of the state for the previous consecutive 90 days, the Sheriff has 60 days to issue a license. The Sheriff must accept completed applications for concealed pistol licenses during regular business hours ([RCW 9.41.070](#)).

The Sheriff is required to check with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) electronic database, the Department of Social and Health Services electronic database, and with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine

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whether the applicant is ineligible under [RCW 9.41.040](#) or [RCW 9.41.045](#) , or is prohibited under federal law to possess a firearm and therefore ineligible for a concealed pistol license. This check applies for a new concealed pistol license or to renew a concealed pistol license.

A background check for an original license shall be conducted through the WSP Criminal Identification Section and shall include a national check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the submission of fingerprints. The applicant may request and receive a copy of the results of the background check from the Sheriff ([RCW 9.41.070](#)).

The license application shall bear the full name, residential address, telephone number and/or email address at the option of the applicant, date and place of birth, race, gender, physical description, not more than two complete sets of fingerprints, and signature of the licensee, and the licensee's driver license number or state identification card number if used for identification in applying for the license. A signed application for a concealed pistol license shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the Department of Social and Health Services, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's eligibility for a concealed pistol license to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency.

If the applicant is not a United States citizen, the applicant must provide his/her country of citizenship, United States-issued alien number or admission number, and the basis for any exemptions from federal prohibitions on firearm possession by aliens. The applicant shall not be required to produce a birth certificate or other evidence of citizenship. A person who is not a citizen of the United States shall meet the additional requirements of [RCW 9.41.173](#) and provide proof of compliance ([RCW 9.41.070](#)).

The application for an original license shall include a complete set of fingerprints to be forwarded to the WSP ([RCW 9.41.070](#) (4)).

207.3.1 REQUIRED WARNINGS

The license and application shall contain a warning substantially as follows:

“CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a defense to a federal prosecution.”

The license shall contain a description of the major differences between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be consistent with state law (RCW 9.41.070). The application shall contain questions about the applicant's eligibility under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a pistol, the applicant's place of birth, and whether the applicant is a United States citizen.

207.3.2 DOCUMENTATION AND FEES

The Sheriff shall deliver the original license to the licensee, within seven days send the duplicate to the Director of Licensing, and shall preserve the triplicate or other form prescribed by the Department of Licensing for six years after the license has expired, been voided or revoked, or as otherwise provided in the office's established records retention schedule ([RCW 9.41.070](#) (4)).

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The nonrefundable fee for the original five-year license must be paid upon application. Additional charges imposed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation are payable by the applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of the license.

A nonrefundable fee for the renewal of such license, or the replacement of lost or damaged licenses is required of the licensee. No other branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the licensee for the renewal of the license.

Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the option of the Sheriff.

207.4 LICENSE RENEWAL

A licensee may renew a license if the licensee applies for renewal within 90 days before or after the expiration date of the license. A license so renewed shall take effect on the expiration date of the prior license. A licensee renewing after the expiration date of the license must pay a late renewal penalty in addition to the renewal fee ([RCW 9.41.07](#) [0](#) (9)).

An active-duty member of the armed forces who is unable to renew his/her license within the prescribed time period because of assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state military service may renew his/her license by the office-established mail renewal procedures or within 90 days after returning to Washington state. Verification for this concealed pistol license renewal exception is subject to the requirements of RCW 9.41.070.

207.5 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY LICENSE

The Sheriff may issue a temporary emergency license for good cause to an applicant who resides within his/her jurisdiction pending review. However, a temporary emergency license issued under this subsection shall not exempt the holder of the license from any records check requirement. The Sheriff shall assure temporary emergency licenses are easily distinguishable from regular licenses (RCW 9.41.070).

207.6 SUSPENSION OF LICENSES

The Sheriff shall suspend any license issued pursuant to this policy immediately upon notice from the Department of Licensing that the person has been detained under [RCW 71.05.150](#) or [RCW 71.05.153](#) on the grounds that the person presents a likelihood of serious harm due to a behavioral health disorder ([RCW 9.41.049](#)).

The license shall remain suspended for a period of six months from the date the person was released from the behavioral health disorder detention or upon notice from the Department of Licensing of a restoration order ([RCW 71.05.182](#) ; [RCW 9.41.047](#) (3)(f)).

207.7 REVOCATION OF LICENSES

The Sheriff shall revoke any license issued pursuant to this policy immediately upon (RCW 9.41.075(1)):

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- (a) Discovery that the person was ineligible under RCW 9.41.070 for a concealed pistol license when applying for the license or license renewal.
- (b) Conviction of the licensee of an offense, or commitment of the licensee for mental health treatment, that makes a person ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a firearm.
- (c) Conviction of the licensee for a third violation of RCW Chapter 9.41 within five calendar years.
- (d) An order that the licensee forfeit a firearm under RCW 9.41.098(1)(d).
- (e) Upon notification from the Department of Licensing that the licensee has lost the licensee's right to possess a firearm as identified in RCW 9.41.047.
- (f) Receipt of an order to surrender and prohibit weapons or an extreme risk protection order, other than an ex parte temporary protection order, issued against the licensee.

207.7.1 INELIGIBILITY

Upon discovering a person issued a concealed pistol license was ineligible for the license, the Sheriff shall contact the Department of Licensing to determine whether the person purchased a pistol while in possession of the license. If the person did purchase a pistol while in possession of the concealed pistol license, and if the person may not lawfully possess a pistol without a concealed pistol license, the Sheriff shall require the person to present satisfactory evidence of having lawfully transferred ownership of the pistol. The Sheriff shall require the person to produce the evidence within fifteen days of the revocation of the license (RCW 9.41.075(2)).

207.7.2 FIREARM FORFEITURE

When a licensee is ordered to forfeit a firearm under [RCW 9.41.098](#) (1)(d), the Sheriff shall ([RCW 9.41.075](#) (3)):

- (a) On the first forfeiture, revoke the license for one year.
- (b) On the second forfeiture, revoke the license for two years.
- (c) On the third or subsequent forfeiture, revoke the license for five years.

Any person whose license is revoked as a result of a forfeiture of a firearm under [RCW 9.41.098](#) (1)(d) may not reapply for a new license until the end of the revocation period.

The Sheriff shall notify the Department of Licensing in writing of the revocation of a license.

207.8 RECIPROCITY

The Sheriff will recognize the validity of a concealed pistol license issued from another state if the laws of that state recognize and give effect to a concealed pistol license issued under the laws of the State of Washington (RCW 9.41.073). A nonresident so licensed is authorized to carry a concealed pistol in this state if:

- (a) The licensing state does not issue concealed pistol licenses to persons under twenty-one years of age, and

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- (b) The licensing state requires mandatory fingerprint-based background checks of criminal and mental health history for all persons who apply for a concealed pistol license, and
- (c) The Sheriff will honor such a license only while the license holder is not a resident of this state. A license holder from another state must carry the handgun in compliance with the laws of this state.

207.9 RESIDENCY

The Sheriff may issue a license to an applicant if the applicant resides within this County. The Sheriff may issue a license to nonresident of the state in accordance with these procedures and state law.

207.10 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Mental health information received by the Sheriff pursuant to [RCW 9.41.047](#), [RCW 9.41.070](#), [RCW 9.41.090](#) or [RCW 9.41.173](#) is exempt from disclosure except as provided in [RCW 42.56.240](#) (RCW 9.41.097). Disclosure of information otherwise obtained in the licensing process shall be limited as defined by [RCW 42.56.240](#).

Retiree Concealed Firearms

208.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the issuance, denial, suspension or revocation of Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification cards under the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act (LEOSA) (18 USC § 926C).

208.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to provide identification cards to qualified former or retired deputies as provided in this policy.

208.3 LEOSA

The Sheriff may issue an identification card for LEOSA purposes to any qualified former deputy of this office who (18 USC § 926C(c)):

- (a) Separated from service in good standing from this office as a deputy.
- (b) Before such separation, had regular employment as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 10 years or more or, if employed as a law enforcement officer for less than 10 years, separated from service after completing any applicable probationary period due to a service-connected disability as determined by this office.
- (c) Has not been disqualified for reasons related to mental health.
- (d) Has not entered into an agreement with this office where the deputy acknowledges that he/she is not qualified to receive a firearm qualification certificate for reasons related to mental health.
- (e) Is not prohibited by federal law from receiving or possessing a firearm.

208.3.1 LEOSA IDENTIFICATION CARD FORMAT

The LEOSA identification card should contain a photograph of the former deputy and identify him/her as having been employed as a deputy.

If the Skamania County Sheriff's Office qualifies the former deputy, the LEOSA identification card or separate certification should indicate the date the former deputy was tested or otherwise found by the Office to meet the active duty standards for qualification to carry a firearm.

208.3.2 AUTHORIZATION

Any qualified former law enforcement officer, including a former deputy of this office, may carry a concealed firearm under 18 USC § 926C when he/she is:

- (a) In possession of photographic identification that identifies him/her as having been employed as a law enforcement officer, and one of the following:
 - 1. An indication from the person's former law enforcement agency that he/she has, within the past year, been tested or otherwise found by the law enforcement

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agency to meet agency-established active duty standards for qualification in firearms training to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.

2. A certification, issued by either the state in which the person resides or by a certified firearms instructor who is qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active duty law enforcement officers within that state, indicating that the person has, within the past year, been tested or otherwise found to meet the standards established by the state or, if not applicable, the standards of any agency in that state.
 - (b) Not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance.
 - (c) Not prohibited by federal law from receiving a firearm.
 - (d) Not in a location prohibited by Washington law or by a private person or entity on his/her property if such prohibition is permitted by Washington law.

208.4 WASHINGTON IDENTIFICATION CARD

The Sheriff may issue an identification card to a retired deputy of this office for the purposes of carrying a concealed weapon within the State of Washington under [RCW 9.41.060](#) who:

- (a) Has retired from this office.
- (b) Did not retire because of a mental or stress-related disability.
- (c) Has not been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of a crime making him/her ineligible for a concealed pistol license.

If issued, the identification card must document all of the above qualifications (RCW 9.41.060).

Any retired person receiving such an identification card shall abide by all of the other requirements of this policy that are applicable to a LEOSA identification card.

208.5 FORMER DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

A former deputy with a card issued under this policy shall immediately notify the Shift Sergeant of his/her arrest or conviction in any jurisdiction, or that he/she is the subject of a court order, in accordance with the Reporting of Employee Convictions Policy.

208.5.1 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER LEOSA

In order to obtain or retain a LEOSA identification card, the former deputy shall:

- (a) Sign a waiver of liability of the Office for all acts taken related to carrying a concealed firearm, acknowledging both his/her personal responsibility as a private person for all acts taken when carrying a concealed firearm as permitted by LEOSA and also that these acts were not taken as an employee or former employee of the Office.
- (b) Remain subject to all applicable office policies and federal, state and local laws.
- (c) Demonstrate good judgment and character commensurate with carrying a loaded and concealed firearm.

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- (d) Successfully pass an annual criminal history background check indicating that he/she is not prohibited by law from receiving or possessing a firearm.

208.6 FIREARM QUALIFICATIONS

The Rangemaster may provide former deputies from this office an opportunity to qualify. Written evidence of the qualification and the weapons used will be provided and will contain the date of the qualification. The Rangemaster will maintain a record of the qualifications and weapons used.

If provided, the qualification shall include the firearms course and certificate developed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (RCW 36.28A.090).

Chapter 3 - General Operations

Use of Force

300.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every member of this office is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner.

In addition to those methods, techniques, and tools set forth below, the guidelines for the reasonable application of force contained in this policy shall apply to all policies addressing the potential use of force, including but not limited to the Control Devices and Techniques and Conducted Energy Device policies.

300.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Deadly force - Force reasonably anticipated and intended to create a substantial likelihood of causing death or very serious injury.

Feasible - Reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the arrest or lawful objective without increasing risk to the deputy or another person.

Force - The application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows a deputy to search, escort, handcuff, or restrain the person.

Imminent - Ready to take place; impending. Note that imminent does not mean immediate or instantaneous.

Totality of the circumstances - All facts and circumstances known to the deputy at the time, taken as a whole, including the conduct of the deputy and the subject leading up to the use of force ([RCW 10.120.010](#)).

300.2 POLICY

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Deputies are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Deputies must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting deputies with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

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300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE AND REPORT

Any deputy present and observing another law enforcement officer or a member using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force ([RCW 10.93.190](#)).

Any deputy who observes another law enforcement officer or a member use force that is potentially beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall report these observations to a supervisor as soon as feasible (RCW 10.93.190).

300.2.2 PERSPECTIVE

When observing or reporting force used by a law enforcement officer, each deputy should take into account the totality of the circumstances and the possibility that other law enforcement officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by the subject.

300.2.3 ADDITIONAL STATE REQUIREMENTS ON THE DUTY TO INTERCEDE AND REPORT

A deputy shall not be disciplined for or retaliated against in any way for intervening in good faith or for reporting in good faith the unreasonable use of force by another law enforcement officer (RCW 10.93.190) (see the ***Anti-Retaliation Policy 1004***).

300.3 SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Deputies may use deadly force to destroy an animal that is vicious and poses a significant threat of serious bodily harm or death to any person. Deputies may also use deadly force to humanly euthanize an animal that has been injured beyond help (See ***Firearms Policy 306.7.2***).

300.4 USE OF FORCE

Deputies shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the deputy at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable deputy on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that deputies are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation a deputy might encounter, deputies are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident.

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which deputies reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the tools, weapons, or methods provided by this office. Deputies may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised

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device or method must nonetheless be reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires a deputy to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.

300.4.1 ALTERNATIVE TACTICS - DE-ESCALATION

When circumstances reasonably permit, deputies should use non-violent strategies and techniques to decrease the intensity of a situation, improve decision-making, improve communication, reduce the need for force, and increase voluntary compliance (e.g., summoning additional resources, formulating a plan, attempting verbal persuasion) ([RCW 10.120.010](#) ; [RCW 10.120.020](#)).

300.4.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether a deputy has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit. These factors include but are not limited to:

- (a) Immediacy and severity of the threat to deputies or others.
- (b) The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the deputy at the time.
- (c) Deputy/subject factors (e.g., age, size, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue, the number of deputies available vs. subjects).
- (d) The effects of suspected drug or alcohol use (RCW 10.120.020).
- (e) The individual's mental state or capacity (RCW 10.120.020).
- (f) The individual's ability to understand and comply with deputy commands.
- (g) Proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices.
- (h) The degree to which the individual has been effectively restrained and the individual's ability to resist despite being restrained.
- (i) The availability of other reasonable and feasible options and their possible effectiveness.
- (j) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual.
- (k) Training and experience of the deputy.
- (l) Potential for injury to deputies, suspects, and others.
- (m) Whether the individual appears to be resisting, attempting to evade arrest by flight, or is attacking the deputy.
- (n) The risk and reasonably foreseeable consequences of escape.
- (o) The apparent need for immediate control of the individual or a prompt resolution of the situation.

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- (p) Whether the conduct of the individual being confronted no longer reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the deputy or others.
- (q) Prior contacts with the individual or awareness of any propensity for violence.
- (r) The individual is visibly pregnant or claims to be pregnant (RCW 10.120.020).
- (s) The individual is a minor, appears to be a minor, or claims to be a minor (RCW 10.120.020).
- (t) The individual is known to be a vulnerable adult or appears to be a vulnerable adult as defined by RCW 74.34.020 (RCW 10.120.020).
- (u) The individual has limited English proficiency (RCW 10.120.020).
- (v) The individual is in the presence of a child (RCW 10.120.020).
- (w) Any other exigent circumstances.

300.4.2 WASHINGTON STATE LAW - PHYSICAL FORCE

Physical force means any act reasonably likely to cause physical pain or injury or any other act exerted upon a person's body to compel, control, constrain, or restrain the person's movement. Physical force does not include pat-downs, incidental touching, verbal commands, or compliant handcuffing where there is no physical pain or injury (RCW 10.120.010).

A deputy may use physical force upon another person to the extent necessary to (RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) Protect against a criminal offense when there is probable cause that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit the offense.
- (b) Effect an arrest.
- (c) Prevent an escape as defined under chapter 9A.76 RCW.
- (d) Take a person into custody, transport a person for evaluation or treatment, or provide other assistance under RCW 10.77; RCW 71.05; or RCW 71.34.
- (e) Take a minor into protective custody when authorized or directed by statute.
- (f) Execute or enforce a court order authorizing or directing a deputy to take a person into custody.
- (g) Execute a search warrant.
- (h) Execute or enforce an oral directive issued by a judicial officer in the courtroom or a written order where the court expressly authorizes a deputy to use physical force to execute or enforce the directive or order.
- (i) Prevent a person from fleeing or stop a person who is actively fleeing a lawful temporary investigative detention, provided that the person has been given notice that the person is being detained and is not free to leave.
- (j) Take a person into custody when authorized or directed by statute.
- (k) Protect against an imminent threat of bodily injury to the deputy, another person, or the person against whom force is being used.

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Deputies shall terminate the use of physical force as soon as the necessity for such force ends (RCW 10.120.020).

300.4.3 PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES

Pain compliance techniques may be effective in controlling a physically or actively resisting individual. Deputies may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which they have successfully completed office-approved training. Deputies utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider:

- (a) The degree to which the application of the technique may be controlled given the level of resistance.
- (b) Whether the individual can comply with the direction or orders of the deputy.
- (c) Whether the individual has been given sufficient opportunity to comply.

The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the deputy determines that compliance has been achieved.

300.4.4 USE OF FORCE TO SEIZE EVIDENCE

In general, deputies may use reasonable force to lawfully seize evidence and to prevent the destruction of evidence. However, deputies are discouraged from using force solely to prevent a person from swallowing evidence or contraband. In the instance when force is used, deputies should not intentionally use any technique that restricts blood flow to the head, restricts respiration or which creates a reasonable likelihood that blood flow to the head or respiration would be restricted.

300.4.4 RESTRICTIONS ON RESPIRATORY RESTRAINTS

Deputies of this office are not authorized to use respiratory restraints, also known as chokeholds or neck restraints ([RCW 10.116.020](#)).

300.5 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS

When reasonable, deputies shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make efforts to identify themselves as peace officers and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless a deputy has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

Use of deadly force is only justified when the deputy reasonably believes it is necessary in the following circumstances (RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) A deputy may use deadly force to protect the deputy or others from what the deputy reasonably believes is an imminent threat of serious physical injury or death.
- (b) A deputy may use deadly force to stop a fleeing subject when the deputy has probable cause to believe that the individual has committed, or intends to commit, a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death, and the deputy reasonably believes that there is an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to any other person if the individual is not immediately apprehended. Under such circumstances, a verbal warning should precede the use of deadly force, where feasible.

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For purposes of deadly force, an "imminent threat of serious physical injury or death" exists when, based on the totality of the circumstances, it is objectively reasonable to believe that a person has the present and apparent ability, opportunity, and intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person (RCW 10.120.020).

300.5.1 MOVING VEHICLES

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle involve additional considerations and risks, and are rarely effective.

When feasible, deputies should take reasonable steps to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants.

A deputy should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the deputy reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the imminent threat of the vehicle or of deadly force other than the vehicle that is directed at the deputy or others ([RCW 10.116.060](#)).

Deputies should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.

A vehicle is not considered a threat for purposes of this policy unless the operator is using it as a deadly weapon and there are no other reasonable means to immediately avoid that threat (RCW 10.116.060).

300.6 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

Any use of force by a member of this office shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The deputy should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.

To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis, and related purposes, the Office may require the completion of additional report forms, as specified in office policy, procedure, or law. See the Report Preparation Policy for additional circumstances that may require documentation.

300.6.1 NOTIFICATIONS TO SUPERVISORS

Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as practicable following the application of force to ensure proper documentation of the incident in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The application caused a visible injury.
- (b) The application would lead a reasonable deputy to conclude that the individual may have experienced more than momentary discomfort.
- (c) The individual subjected to the force complained of injury or continuing pain.
- (d) The individual indicates intent to pursue litigation.
- (e) Any application of the TASER (TM) device or control device.
- (f) Any application of a restraint device other than handcuffs, shackles, or belly chains.

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- (g) The individual subjected to the force was rendered unconscious.
- (h) An individual was struck or kicked.
- (i) An individual alleges unreasonable force was used or that any of the above has occurred.

300.6.2 NOTIFICATION TO INDIAN AFFAIRS

When the use of force by a deputy results in the death of a person who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, notification shall be made to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs within a reasonable period of time, but not more than 24 hours after the office has good reason to believe the person was an enrolled member. Notice shall include sufficient information for the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to attempt to identify the deceased person and tribal affiliation (RCW 10.114.021).

300.6.3 NOTIFICATION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION (CJTC)

Notification shall be made to CJTC within 15 days of learning of the occurrence of any death or serious injury caused by the use of force by a deputy ([RCW 43.101.135](#)).

300.7 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, has sustained visible injury, expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or was rendered unconscious. Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter should be continuously monitored until the individual can be medically assessed. Individuals should not be placed on their stomachs for an extended period, as this could impair their ability to breathe ([RCW 10.93.190](#)).

Based upon the deputy's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the individual's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by an emergency medical services provider or medical personnel at a hospital or jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practicable, should be witnessed by another deputy and/or medical personnel. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included in the recording, if possible.

The on-scene supervisor or, if the on-scene supervisor is not available, the primary handling deputy shall ensure that any person providing medical care or receiving custody of a person following any use of force is informed that the person was subjected to force. This notification shall include a description of the force used and any other circumstances the deputy reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the subject (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

Individuals who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, and imperviousness to pain resulting from an "Acute Chaotic Event" (sometimes called "excited delirium"), or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple deputies to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death. Calls involving these persons should be considered medical

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emergencies. Deputies who reasonably suspect a medical emergency should request medical assistance as soon as practicable and have medical personnel stage away.

See the ***Medical Aid and Response Policy 430*** for additional guidelines.

300.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to a reported application of force resulting in visible injury, if reasonably available. When a supervisor is able to respond to an incident in which there has been a reported application of force, the supervisor is expected to:

- (a) Obtain the basic facts from the involved deputies. Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.
- (b) Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated.
- (c) When possible, separately obtain a recorded interview with the individual upon whom force was applied. If this interview is conducted without the individual having voluntarily waived his/her *Miranda* rights, the following shall apply:
 - 1. The content of the interview should not be summarized or included in any related criminal charges.
 - 2. The fact that a recorded interview was conducted should be documented in a property or other report.
 - 3. The recording of the interview should be distinctly marked for retention until all potential for civil litigation has expired.
- (d) Once any initial medical assessment has been completed or first aid has been rendered, ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain, as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas.
 - 1. These photographs should be retained until all potential for civil litigation has expired.
- (e) Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.
- (f) Review and approve all related reports.
- (g) Determine if there is any indication that the individual may pursue civil litigation.
 - 1. If there is an indication of potential civil litigation, the supervisor should complete and route a notification of a potential claim through the appropriate channels.
- (h) Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the incident and initiate an administrative investigation if there is a question of policy noncompliance or if for any reason further investigation may be appropriate.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

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300.8.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

The Duty Supervisor shall review each use of force by any personnel within his/her command to ensure compliance with this policy and to address any training issues.

300.9 TRAINING

Deputies will receive periodic training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Deputies shall receive training and subsequent periodic training on ([RCW 43.101.450](#) ; [RCW 43.101.495](#) ; RCW 10.120.010; RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) Guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, elderly, pregnant persons, and individuals with physical, mental, or intellectual disabilities.
- (b) De-escalation tactics, including alternatives to force and legal requirements.
- (c) Duty to intercede.

300.10 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

At least annually, the Patrol Division Chief should prepare an analysis report on use of force incidents. The report should be submitted to the Sheriff. The report should not contain the names of deputies, suspects, or case numbers, and should include:

- (a) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members.
- (b) Training needs recommendations.
- (c) Equipment needs recommendations.
- (d) Policy revision recommendations.

300.11 WASHINGTON STATE LAW - REASONABLE CARE

Deputies shall use reasonable care when determining whether to use and when using any physical force or deadly force against another person. The least amount of physical force necessary shall be used to overcome resistance under the circumstances ([RCW 10.120.020](#)).

Use of Force Review Boards

301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a process for the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to review the use of force by its employees.

This review process shall be in addition to any other review or investigation that may be conducted by any outside or multi-agency entity having jurisdiction over the investigation or evaluation of the use of deadly force.

301.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will objectively evaluate the use of force by its members to ensure that their authority is used lawfully, appropriately and is consistent with training and policy.

301.3 REMOVAL FROM LINE DUTY ASSIGNMENT

Generally, whenever an employee's actions or use of force in an official capacity, or while using office equipment, results in death or very serious injury to another, that employee will be placed in a temporary administrative assignment pending an administrative review. The Sheriff may exercise discretion and choose not to place an employee in an administrative assignment in any case.

301.4 REVIEW BOARD

The Use of Force Review Board will be convened when the use of force by a member results in very serious injury or death to another.

The Use of Force Review Board will also investigate and review the circumstances surrounding every discharge of a firearm, whether the employee was on- or off-duty. The aforementioned investigation excludes discharging a firearm for purposes of, training, recreational use, or discharging a firearm to destroy a vicious animal which poses a significant threat of serious bodily harm or death to any person, or to destroy an animal that has been injured beyond help while on-duty.

The Sheriff may request the Use of Force Review Board to investigate the circumstances surrounding any use of force incident.

The Administration Division Chief will convene the Use of Force Review Board as necessary. It will be the responsibility of the Division Chief or supervisor of the involved employee to notify the Administration Division Chief of any incidents requiring board review. The involved employee's Division Chief or supervisor will also ensure that all relevant reports, documents and materials are available for consideration and review by the board.

301.4.1 COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Administration Division Chief should select five Use of Force Review Board members from the following, as appropriate:

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- Commanding officer in the involved member's chain of command
- Training Manager
- Non-administrative supervisor
- A peer deputy
- A sworn peace officer from an outside law enforcement agency
- Office instructor for the type of weapon, device or technique used

The senior ranking command representative who is not in the same division as the involved employee will serve as chairperson.

301.4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

The Use of Force Review Board is empowered to conduct an administrative review and inquiry into the circumstances of an incident.

The board members may request further investigation, request reports be submitted for the board's review, call persons to present information and request the involved employee to appear. The involved employee will be notified of the meeting of the board and may choose to have a representative through all phases of the review process.

The board does not have the authority to recommend discipline.

The Sheriff will determine whether the board should delay its review until after completion of any criminal investigation, review by any prosecutorial body, filing of criminal charges, the decision not to file criminal charges, or any other action. The board should be provided all relevant available material from these proceedings for its consideration.

The review shall be based upon those facts which were reasonably believed or known by the deputy at the time of the incident, applying any legal requirements, office policies, procedures and approved training to those facts. Facts later discovered but unknown to the deputy at the time shall neither justify nor call into question a deputy's decision regarding the use of force.

Any questioning of the involved employee conducted by the board will be in accordance with the office's disciplinary procedures, the Personnel Complaints Policy, the current collective bargaining agreement and any applicable state or federal law.

The board shall make one of the following recommended findings:

- (a) The employee's actions were within office policy and procedure.
- (b) The employee's actions were in violation of office policy and procedure.

A recommended finding requires a majority vote of the board. The board may also recommend additional investigations or reviews, such as disciplinary investigations, training reviews to consider whether training should be developed or revised, and policy reviews, as may be appropriate. The board chairperson will submit the written recommendation to the Sheriff.

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The Sheriff shall review the recommendation, make a final determination as to whether the employee's actions were within policy and procedure and will determine whether any additional actions, investigations or reviews are appropriate. The Sheriff's final findings will be forwarded to the involved employee's Division Chief for review and appropriate action. If the Sheriff concludes that discipline should be considered, a disciplinary process will be initiated.

At the conclusion of any additional reviews, copies of all relevant reports and information will be filed with the Sheriff.

Handcuffing and Restraints

302.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of handcuffs and other restraints during detentions and arrests.

302.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office authorizes the use of restraint devices in accordance with this policy, the Use of Force Policy and office training. Restraint devices shall not be used to punish, to display authority or as a show of force.

302.3 USE OF RESTRAINTS

Only members who have successfully completed Skamania County Sheriff's Office-approved training on the use of restraint devices described in this policy are authorized to use these devices.

When deciding whether to use any restraint, deputies should carefully balance officer safety concerns with factors that include but are not limited to:

- The circumstances or crime leading to the arrest.
- The demeanor and behavior of the arrested person.
- The age and health of the person.
- Whether the person is known to be pregnant.
- Whether the person has a hearing or speaking disability. In such cases, consideration should be given, safety permitting, to handcuffing to the front in order to allow the person to sign or write notes.
- Whether the person has any other apparent disability.

302.3.1 RESTRAINT OF DETAINEES

Situations may arise where it may be reasonable to restrain a person who may, after brief investigation, be released without arrest. Unless arrested, the use of restraints on detainees should continue only for as long as is reasonably necessary to ensure the safety of deputies and others. When deciding whether to remove restraints from a detainee, deputies should continuously weigh the safety interests at hand against the continuing intrusion upon the detainee.

302.3.2 RESTRAINT OF PREGNANT PERSONS

Persons who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in the least restrictive manner available and reasonable under the circumstances, but in no case shall leg irons or waist chains be used. Handcuffs behind the body should not be used unless the deputy has a reasonable suspicion that the person may resist, attempt escape, injure herself or others, or damage property (RCW 70.48.500).

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When the person is in labor no restraints of any kind shall be used. This does not prohibit a treating physician licensed under Title 18 RCW from requesting the use of hospital restraints for the medical safety of the person (RCW 70.48.500).

302.3.3 RESTRAINT OF JUVENILES

A juvenile under 14 years of age should not be restrained unless he/she is suspected of a dangerous felony or when the deputy has a reasonable suspicion that the juvenile may resist, attempt escape, injure him/herself, injure the deputy or damage property.

Members who are school resource officers should only use restraints on a student participating in school-sponsored instruction or activity when there is an imminent likelihood of serious harm and pursuant to the school policy for students and staff (RCW 28A.600.485).

302.3.4 NOTIFICATIONS

Whenever a deputy transports a person with the use of restraints other than handcuffs, the deputy shall inform the jail staff upon arrival at the jail that restraints were used. This notification should include information regarding any other circumstances the deputy reasonably believes would be potential safety concerns or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration) that may have occurred prior to, or during, transportation to the jail.

302.4 APPLICATION OF HANDCUFFS OR PLASTIC CUFFS

Handcuffs, including temporary nylon or plastic cuffs, may be used only to restrain a person's hands to ensure officer safety.

Although recommended for most arrest situations, handcuffing is discretionary and not an absolute requirement of the Office. Deputies should consider handcuffing any person they reasonably believe warrants that degree of restraint. However, deputies should not conclude that in order to avoid risk every person should be handcuffed regardless of the circumstances.

In most situations handcuffs should be applied with the hands behind the person's back. When feasible, handcuffs should be double-locked to prevent tightening, which may cause undue discomfort or injury to the hands or wrists.

In situations where one pair of handcuffs does not appear sufficient to restrain the person or may cause unreasonable discomfort due to the person's size, deputies should consider alternatives, such as using an additional set of handcuffs or multiple plastic cuffs.

Handcuffs should be removed as soon as it is reasonable or after the person has been searched and is safely confined within a detention facility.

302.5 APPLICATION OF SPIT HOODS

Spit hoods are temporary protective devices designed to prevent the wearer from biting and/or transferring or transmitting fluids (saliva and mucous) to others.

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Spit hoods may be placed upon persons in custody when the deputy reasonably believes the person will bite or spit, either on a person or in an inappropriate place. They are generally used during application of a physical restraint, while the person is restrained, or during or after transport.

Deputies utilizing spit hoods should ensure that the spit hood is fastened properly to allow for adequate ventilation and that the restrained person can breathe normally. Deputies should provide assistance during the movement of a restrained person due to the potential for impairing or distorting that person's vision. Deputies should avoid commingling those wearing spit hoods with others and detainees.

Spit hoods should not be used in situations where the restrained person is bleeding profusely from the area around the mouth or nose, or if there are indications that the person has a medical condition, such as difficulty breathing or vomiting. In such cases, prompt medical care should be obtained. If the person vomits while wearing a spit hood, the spit hood should be promptly removed and discarded. Persons who have been sprayed with oleoresin capicum (OC) spray should be thoroughly decontaminated including hair, head, and clothing, prior to application of a spit hood.

Those who have been placed in a spit hood should be continually monitored and shall not be left unattended until the spit hood is removed. Spit hoods shall be discarded after each use.

302.6 APPLICATION OF AUXILIARY RESTRAINT DEVICES

Auxiliary restraint devices include transport belts, waist or belly chains, transportation chains, leg irons and other similar devices. Auxiliary restraint devices are intended for use during long-term restraint or transportation. They provide additional security and safety without impeding breathing, while permitting adequate movement, comfort and mobility.

Only office-authorized devices may be used. Any person in auxiliary restraints should be monitored as reasonably appears necessary.

302.7 APPLICATION OF LEG RESTRAINT DEVICES

Leg restraints may be used to restrain the legs of a violent or potentially violent person when it is reasonable to do so during the course of detention, arrest, or transportation. Only restraint devices approved by the office shall be used.

In determining whether to use the leg restraint, deputies should consider:

- (a) Whether the deputy or others could be exposed to injury due to the assaultive or resistant behavior of a person.
- (b) Whether it is reasonably necessary to protect the person from his/her own actions (e.g., hitting his/her head against the interior of the patrol vehicle, running away from the arresting deputy while handcuffed, kicking at objects or deputies).
- (c) Whether it is reasonably necessary to avoid damage to property (e.g., kicking at windows of the patrol vehicle).

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302.7.1 GUIDELINES FOR USE OF LEG RESTRAINTS

When applying leg restraints, the following guidelines should be followed:

- (a) If practicable, deputies should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the leg restraint device. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practicable after the application of the leg restraint device.
- (b) Once applied, absent a medical or other emergency, restraints should remain in place until the deputy arrives at the jail or other facility or the person no longer reasonably appears to pose a threat.
- (c) Once secured, the person should be placed in a seated or upright position, secured with a seat belt, and shall not be placed on his/her stomach for an extended period, as this could reduce the person's ability to breathe.
- (d) The restrained person should be continually monitored by a deputy while in the leg restraint. The deputy should ensure that the person does not roll onto and remain on his/her stomach.
- (e) The deputy should look for signs of labored breathing and take appropriate steps to relieve and minimize any obvious factors contributing to this condition.
- (f) When transported by emergency medical services, the restrained person should be accompanied by a deputy when requested by medical personnel. The transporting deputy should describe to medical personnel any unusual behaviors or other circumstances the deputy reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

302.8 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If a person is restrained and released without an arrest, the deputy shall document the details of the detention and the need for handcuffs or other restraints.

If a person is arrested, the use of handcuffs or other restraints shall be documented in the related report.

Deputies should document the following information in reports, as appropriate, when restraints other than handcuffs are used on a person:

- (a) The factors that led to the decision to use restraints.
- (b) Supervisor notification and approval of restraint use.
- (c) The types of restraint used.
- (d) The amount of time the person was restrained.
- (e) How the person was transported and the position of the person during transport.
- (f) Observations of the person's behavior and any signs of physiological problems.
- (g) Any known or suspected drug use or other medical problems.

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302.8.1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Members working as school resource officers shall prepare a report pursuant to RCW 28A.600.485 and provide a copy to the school administrator whenever a student is restrained in a room or other enclosure or restrained by handcuffs or other restraint devices during school-sponsored instructions or activities.

302.9 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Training Manager should ensure that deputies receive periodic training on the proper use of handcuffs and other restraints, including:

- (a) Proper placement and fit of handcuffs and other restraint devices approved for use by the Office.
- (b) Response to complaints of pain by restrained persons.
- (c) Options for restraining those who may be pregnant without the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body.
- (d) Options for restraining amputees or those with medical conditions or other physical conditions that may be aggravated by being restrained.

Control Devices and Techniques

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

303.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office authorizes deputies to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy.

303.3 ISSUING, CARRYING, AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this office only if the device has been issued by the Office or approved by the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

Only deputies who have successfully completed office-approved training and have demonstrated satisfactory skill and proficiency in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain, or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

When using control devices, deputies should carefully consider potential impact areas in order to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

303.4.1 SHIFT SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Shift Sergeant may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or members of specialized units who have successfully completed the required training.

303.4.2 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Rangemaster or the designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

303.4.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

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Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Rangemaster for disposition. Damage to County property forms shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

303.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the deputy reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the deputy or others.

When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the baton as authorized and in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.6 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray and pepper projectiles may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in violent behavior. Pepper projectiles and OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of officers or the public.

303.6.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.6.2 PEPPER PROJECTILE SYSTEMS

Pepper projectiles are plastic spheres that are filled with a derivative of OC powder. Because the compressed gas launcher delivers the projectiles with enough force to burst the projectiles on impact and release the OC powder, the potential exists for the projectiles to inflict injury if they strike the head, neck, spine or groin. Therefore, personnel using a pepper projectile system should not intentionally target those areas, except when the deputy reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the deputy or others.

Deputies encountering a situation that warrants the use of a pepper projectile system shall notify a supervisor as soon as practicable. A supervisor shall respond to all pepper projectile system incidents where the suspect has been hit or exposed to the chemical agent. The supervisor shall ensure that all notifications and reports are completed as required by the Use of Force Policy.

Each deployment of a pepper projectile system shall be documented. This includes situations where the launcher was directed toward the suspect, whether or not the launcher was used. Unintentional discharges shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented on the

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appropriate report form. Only non-incident use of a pepper projectile system, such as training and product demonstrations, is exempt from the reporting requirement.

303.6.3 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

303.7 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE

Whenever OC has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, deputies should provide the owners or available occupants with notice of the possible presence of residue that could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that clean up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

303.8 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES

This office is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury and can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation.

303.8.1 DEPLOYMENT AND USE

Only office-approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed. Approved munitions may be used to compel an individual to cease his/her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option.

Deputies are not required or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved deputy determines that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent persons and deputies takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

- (a) The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
- (b) The suspect has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.
- (c) The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or deputies.
- (d) There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

303.8.2 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Before discharging projectiles, the deputy should consider such factors as:

- (a) Distance and angle to target.

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- (b) Type of munitions employed.
- (c) Type and thickness of subject's clothing.
- (d) The subject's proximity to others.
- (e) The location of the subject.
- (f) Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of deputies or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other deputies and individuals that the device is being deployed.

Deputies should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding effective distances and target areas. However, deputies are not restricted solely to use according to manufacturer recommendations. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. The head and neck should not be intentionally targeted, except when the deputy reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the deputy or others.

303.8.3 SAFETY PROCEDURES

Shotguns specifically designated for use with kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked in a manner that makes them readily identifiable as such.

Deputies will inspect the shotgun and projectiles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the shotgun is in proper working order and the projectiles are of the approved type and appear to be free from defects.

When it is not deployed, the shotgun will be unloaded and properly and securely stored in the vehicle. When deploying the kinetic energy projectile shotgun, the deputy shall visually inspect the kinetic energy projectiles to ensure that conventional ammunition is not being loaded into the shotgun.

Absent compelling circumstances, deputies who must transition from conventional ammunition to kinetic energy projectiles will employ the two-person rule for loading. The two-person rule is a safety measure in which a second deputy watches the unloading and loading process to ensure that the weapon is completely emptied of conventional ammunition.

303.9 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The Rangemaster or designated Firearms Instructor shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained, have demonstrated satisfactory

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skill and proficiency, are certified to carry the specific control device, and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the deputy's training file.
- (c) Deputies who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If a deputy cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy after remedial training, the deputy will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

303.10 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.

Conducted Energy Device

304.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of TASER (TM) devices.

304.2 POLICY

The TASER device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to deputies and suspects.

304.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING TASER DEVICES

Only members who have successfully completed office-approved training and have demonstrated satisfactory skill and proficiency may be issued and carry the TASER device.

TASER devices are issued for use during a member's current assignment. Those leaving a particular assignment may be required to return the device to the office's inventory.

Deputies shall only use the TASER device and cartridges that have been issued by the Office. Uniformed deputies who have been issued the TASER device shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person. Non-uniformed deputies may secure the TASER device in the driver's compartment of their vehicle.

Members carrying the TASER device should perform a spark test on the unit prior to the beginning of every shift cycle.

When carrying while in uniform, deputies shall carry the TASER device in a weak-side holster on the side opposite the duty weapon.

- (a) All TASER devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
- (b) Whenever practicable, deputies should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the TASER device.
- (c) Deputies shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER device is properly maintained and in good working order.
- (d) Deputies should not hold both a firearm and the TASER device at the same time.

304.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of deputies or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

- (a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- (b) Provide other deputies and individuals with a warning that the TASER device may be deployed.

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If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with a deputy's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the deputy may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided that a cartridge has not been loaded into the device), or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER device. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the deputy deploying the TASER device in the related report.

304.5 USE OF THE TASER DEVICE

The TASER device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The TASER device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the TASER device is generally effective in controlling most individuals, deputies should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

304.5.1 APPLICATION OF THE TASER DEVICE

The TASER device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the deputy at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

- (a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
- (b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm deputies, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing deputy, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the TASER device to apprehend an individual.

304.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the TASER device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the deputy, the subject or others, and the deputy reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

- (a) Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
- (b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
- (c) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
- (d) Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based oleoresin capicum (OC) spray.

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- (e) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles,).

Because the application of the TASER device in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without probes) relies primarily on pain compliance, the use of the drive-stun mode generally should be limited to supplementing the probe-mode to complete the circuit, or as a distraction technique to gain separation between deputies and the subject, thereby giving deputies time and distance to consider other force options or actions.

The TASER device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

304.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the deputy to limit the application of the TASER device probes to a precise target area, deputies should monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

304.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER DEVICE

Deputies should apply the TASER device for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles. Multiple applications of the TASER device against a single individual are generally not recommended and should be avoided unless the deputy reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.

If the first application of the TASER device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the deputy should consider certain factors before additional applications of the TASER device, including:

- (a) Whether the probes are making proper contact.
- (b) Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
- (c) Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

Deputies should generally not intentionally apply more than one TASER device at a time against a single subject.

304.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Deputies should take appropriate actions to control and restrain the individual to minimize the need for longer or multiple exposures to the Taser. As soon as practicable, deputies shall notify a supervisor of all TASER device discharges. Confetti tags should be collected and the expended cartridge, along with both probes and wire, should be submitted into evidence. The cartridge serial

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number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

304.5.6 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

The TASER device may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

304.5.7 TASER® CAM™

The TASER CAM is activated any time the safety is in the off position. The safety should be in the safe position unless the deputy intends to use the device. Because the TASER CAM memory is limited, the video and audio data should be downloaded frequently and retained as required by the office records retention schedule.

304.5.8 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Deputies are not authorized to carry office TASER devices while off-duty.

Deputies shall ensure that TASER devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

304.6 DOCUMENTATION

Deputies shall document all TASER device discharges in the related arrest/crime report and the TASER device report form. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy. Unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person, laser activation and arcing the device will also be documented on the report form.

304.6.1 TASER DEVICE FORM

Items that shall be included in the TASER device report form are:

- (a) The type and brand of TASER device and cartridge and cartridge serial number.
- (b) Date, time and location of the incident.
- (c) Whether any display, laser or arc deterred a subject and gained compliance.
- (d) The number of TASER device activations, the duration of each cycle, the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined) the duration that the subject received applications.
- (e) The range at which the TASER device was used.
- (f) The type of mode used (probe or drive-stun).
- (g) Location of any probe impact.
- (h) Location of contact in drive-stun mode.
- (i) Description of where missed probes went.
- (j) Whether medical care was provided to the subject.

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- (k) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
- (l) Whether any deputies sustained any injuries.

The Training Manager should periodically analyze the report forms to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness. The Training Manager should also conduct audits of data downloads and reconcile TASER device report forms with recorded activations. TASER device information and statistics, with identifying information removed, should periodically be made available to the public.

304.6.2 REPORTS

The deputy should include the following in the arrest/crime report:

- (a) Identification of all personnel firing TASER devices
- (b) Identification of all witnesses
- (c) Medical care provided to the subject
- (d) Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions
- (e) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems

304.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove TASER device probes from sensitive areas such as the head, neck, or genitalia of a person's body. Used TASER device probes shall be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

All persons who have been struck by TASER device probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device or who sustained direct exposure of the laser to the eyes shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

- (a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- (b) The person may be pregnant.
- (c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
- (d) The TASER device probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- (e) The person requests medical treatment.

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be

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witnessed by another deputy and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting deputy shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the TASER device (see the Medical Aid and Response Policy).

304.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the TASER device may be used. When possible a supervisor should respond to all incidents where the TASER device was activated/deployed.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the TASER device. The device's onboard memory should be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor and saved with the related arrest/crime report. Photographs of probe sites should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

304.9 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the TASER device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial office-approved training and demonstrating satisfactory skill and proficiency. Any personnel who have not carried the TASER device as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a office-approved TASER device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been issued TASER devices should occur every year. A reassessment of a deputy's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Training Manager. All training and proficiency for TASER devices will be documented in the deputy's training file.

Command staff, supervisors, and investigators should receive TASER device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Deputies who do not carry TASER devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with deputies who use the device.

The Training Manager is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry TASER devices have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification.

Application of TASER devices during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Training Manager should ensure that all training includes:

- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Use of Force Policy.

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- (c) Performing weak-hand draws or cross-draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing and firing a firearm.
- (d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest, and groin.
- (e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the TASER device and transitioning to other force options.
- (f) De-escalation techniques.
- (g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the TASER device.

Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

305.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policy and procedures for the investigation of an incident in which a person is injured or dies as the result of an officer-involved shooting or as a result of other action of a deputy.

In other incidents not covered by this policy, the Sheriff may decide that the investigation will follow the process provided in this policy.

305.2 POLICY

The policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office is to ensure that officer-involved shootings and deaths are investigated in a thorough, fair and impartial manner.

305.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Officer-involved shootings and deaths involve several separate investigations. The investigations may include:

- A criminal investigation of the suspect's actions.
- A criminal investigation of the involved officer's action.
- An administrative investigation as to policy compliance by involved deputies.
- A civil investigation to determine potential liability.

305.4 CONTROL OF INVESTIGATIONS

Investigators from surrounding agencies may be assigned to work on the criminal investigation of officer-involved shootings and deaths. This may include at least one investigator from the agency that employs the involved officer.

Jurisdiction is determined by the location of the shooting or death and the agency employing the involved officer. The following scenarios outline the jurisdictional responsibilities for investigating officer-involved shootings and deaths.

305.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT ACTIONS

The investigation of any possible criminal conduct by the suspect is controlled by the agency in whose jurisdiction the suspect's crime occurred. For example, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office would control the investigation if the suspect's crime occurred in Skamania County.

If multiple crimes have been committed in multiple jurisdictions, identification of the agency that will control the investigation may be reached in the same way as with any other crime. The investigation may be conducted by the agency in control of the criminal investigation of the involved officer, at the discretion of the Sheriff and with concurrence from the other agency.

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305.4.2 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER ACTIONS

The control of the criminal investigation into the involved deputy's conduct during the incident will be determined by the employing agency's protocol. When a deputy from this office is involved, the criminal investigation will be handled according to the Criminal Investigation section of this policy.

Requests made of this office to investigate a shooting or death involving an outside agency's officer shall be referred to the Sheriff or the authorized designee for approval.

305.4.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL INVESTIGATION

Regardless of where the incident occurs, the administrative and civil investigation of each involved officer is controlled by the respective employing agency.

305.4.4 OFFICER/DEPUTY USE OF FORCE INVESTIGATIONS

Where the use of deadly force by a deputy results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm, an investigation shall be completed by an independent investigative team that is independent of the Office and meets the independent investigations criteria of the Criminal Justice Training Commission ([RCW 10.114.011](#) ; [WAC 139-12-020](#) ; [WAC 139-12-030](#)).

305.5 INVESTIGATION PROCESS

The following procedures are guidelines used in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting or death.

305.5.1 UNINVOLVED DEPUTIES RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene of an officer-involved shooting or death, the first uninvolved SCSO deputy will be the deputy-in-charge and will assume the responsibilities of a supervisor until properly relieved. This deputy should, as appropriate:

- (a) Secure the scene and identify and eliminate hazards for all those involved.
- (b) Take reasonable steps to obtain emergency medical attention for injured individuals.
- (c) Request additional resources from the Office or other agencies.
- (d) Coordinate a perimeter or pursuit of suspects.
- (e) Check for injured persons and evacuate as needed.
- (f) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

305.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene, the first uninvolved SCSO supervisor should ensure completion of the duties as outlined above, plus:

- (a) Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.
 - 1. In the event that there are no uninvolved officers who can supply adequate overview, the supervisor should attempt to obtain a brief voluntary overview from one involved officer.

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- (b) If necessary, the supervisor may administratively order any SCSO deputy to immediately provide public safety information necessary to secure the scene, identify injured parties and pursue suspects.
 - 1. Public safety information shall be limited to such things as outstanding suspect information, number and direction of any shots fired, perimeter of the incident scene, identity of known or potential witnesses and any other pertinent information.
 - 2. The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.
- (c) Provide all available information to the Shift Sergeant and Dispatch. If feasible, sensitive information should be communicated over secure networks.
- (d) Take command of and secure the incident scene with additional SCSO members until properly relieved by another supervisor or other assigned personnel or investigator.
- (e) As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
 - 1. Each involved SCSO deputy should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or SCSO members pending further direction from a supervisor.
 - 2. When an involved officer's weapon is taken or left at the scene for other than officer-safety reasons (e.g., evidence), ensure that he/she is provided with a comparable replacement weapon or transported by other deputies.

305.5.3 SHIFT SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon learning of an officer-involved shooting or death, the Shift Sergeant shall be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the incident until he/she is relieved by the Sheriff or a Division Chief.

All outside inquiries about the incident shall be directed to the Shift Sergeant.

305.5.4 NOTIFICATIONS

The following persons shall be notified as soon as practicable:

- Sheriff
- Undersheriff
- Investigation Division Chief
- Outside agency investigators (if appropriate)
- Administration supervisor
- Civil liability response team
- Psychological/peer support personnel
- Chaplain
- Coroner (if necessary)

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- Involved officer's agency representative (if requested)

305.5.5 INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.
 1. Involved SCSO deputies shall not be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with an attorney or any representative prior to providing a formal interview or report.
 2. Requests from involved non-SCSO officers should be referred to their employing agency.
- (b) Discussions with licensed attorneys will be considered privileged as attorney-client communications.
- (c) Discussions with agency representatives/employee groups will be privileged only as to the discussion of non-criminal information.
- (d) A licensed psychotherapist shall be provided by the Office to each involved SCSO deputy. A licensed psychotherapist may also be provided to any other affected SCSO members, upon request.
 - (a) Interviews with a licensed psychotherapist will be considered privileged.
 - (b) An interview or session with a licensed psychotherapist may take place prior to the member providing a formal interview or report. However, involved members shall not be permitted to consult or meet collectively or in a group with a licensed psychotherapist prior to providing a formal interview or report.
 - (c) A separate fitness-for-duty exam may also be required (see the Fitness for Duty Policy **1016**).
- (e) Communications between the involved deputy and a peer support member or a peer support group counselor is addressed in the Wellness Program Policy.

Care should be taken to preserve the integrity of any physical evidence present on the involved officer's equipment or clothing, such as blood or fingerprints, until investigators or lab personnel can properly retrieve it.

Each involved SCSO deputy shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following an officer-involved shooting or death. It shall be the responsibility of the Shift Sergeant to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

305.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The SW Washington Investigations Team is responsible for the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any officer-involved shooting or death.

If available, investigative personnel from this office may be assigned to partner with investigators from outside agencies or the County Prosecutor's Office to avoid duplicating efforts in related criminal investigations.

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Once public safety issues have been addressed, criminal investigators should be given the opportunity to obtain a voluntary statement from involved officers and to complete their interviews.

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) SCSO supervisors and Administration personnel should not participate directly in any voluntary interview of SCSO deputies. This will not prohibit such personnel from monitoring interviews or providing the criminal investigators with topics for inquiry.
- (b) If requested, any involved officer will be afforded the opportunity to consult individually with a representative of his/her choosing or an attorney prior to speaking with criminal investigators. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each involved officer's statement, involved deputies shall not consult or meet with a representative or an attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.
- (c) If any involved officer is physically, emotionally or otherwise not in a position to provide a voluntary statement when interviewed by criminal investigators, consideration should be given to allowing a reasonable period for the officer to schedule an alternate time for the interview.
- (d) Any voluntary statement provided by an involved officer will be made available for inclusion in any related investigation, including administrative investigations. However, no administratively coerced statement will be provided to any criminal investigators unless the officer consents.

305.6.1 REPORTS BY INVOLVED SCSO DEPUTIES

In the event that suspects remain outstanding or subject to prosecution for related offenses, this office shall retain the authority to require involved SCSO deputies to provide sufficient information for related criminal reports to facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of those individuals.

While the involved SCSO deputy may write the report, it is generally recommended that such reports be completed by assigned investigators, who should interview all involved officers as victims/witnesses. Since the purpose of these reports will be to facilitate criminal prosecution, statements of involved officers should focus on evidence to establish the elements of criminal activities by suspects. Care should be taken not to duplicate information provided by involved officers in other reports.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an involved SCSO deputy of the right to consult with legal counsel prior to completing any such criminal report.

Reports related to the prosecution of criminal suspects will be processed according to normal procedures but should also be included for reference in the investigation of the officer-involved shooting or death.

305.6.2 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an officer-involved shooting or death may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, a supervisor should take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with criminal investigators to utilize available law enforcement personnel for the following:

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- (a) Identification of all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.
 - 1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those persons who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
 - 2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose of identification, attempts to identify the witness prior to his/her departure should be made whenever feasible.
- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by a member of the Office.
 - 1. A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transportation.
- (c) Promptly contacting the suspect's known family and associates to obtain any available and untainted background information about the suspect's activities and state of mind prior to the incident.

305.6.3 INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

Once notified of an officer-involved shooting or death, it shall be the responsibility of the designated Detective Unit supervisor to assign appropriate investigative personnel to handle the investigation of related crimes. Office investigators will be assigned to work with investigators from the SW Washington Investigations Team and may be assigned to separately handle the investigation of any related crimes not being investigated by the County Prosecutor's Office.

All related office reports, except administrative and/or privileged reports, will be forwarded to the designated Detective Unit supervisor for approval. Privileged reports shall be maintained exclusively by members who are authorized such access. Administrative reports will be forwarded to the appropriate Division Chief.

305.7 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

In addition to all other investigations associated with an officer-involved shooting or death, this office will conduct an internal administrative investigation of involved SCSO deputies to determine conformance with office policy. This investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Administration and will be considered a confidential peace officer personnel file.

Interviews of members shall be subject to office policies and applicable laws.

- (a) Any deputy involved in a shooting or death may be requested or administratively compelled to provide a blood sample for alcohol/drug screening. Absent consent from the, such compelled samples and the results of any such testing shall not be disclosed to any criminal investigative agency.

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- (b) If any deputy has voluntarily elected to provide a statement to criminal investigators, the assigned administrative investigator should review that statement before proceeding with any further interview of that involved deputy.
 - 1. If a further interview of the deputy is deemed necessary to determine policy compliance, care should be taken to limit the inquiry to new areas with minimal, if any, duplication of questions addressed in the voluntary statement. The involved deputy shall be provided with a copy of his or her prior statement before proceeding with any subsequent interviews.
- (c) In the event that an involved deputy has elected to not provide criminal investigators with a voluntary statement, the assigned administrative investigator shall conduct an administrative interview to determine all relevant information.
 - 1. Although this interview should not be unreasonably delayed, care should be taken to ensure that the deputy's physical and psychological needs have been addressed before commencing the interview.
 - 2. If requested, the deputy shall have the opportunity to select an uninvolved representative to be present during the interview. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each individual deputy's statement, involved deputies shall not consult or meet with a representative or attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.
 - 3. Administrative interviews should be recorded by the investigator. The deputy may also record the interview.
 - 4. The deputy shall be informed of the nature of the investigation. If a deputy refuses to answer questions, he/she should be given his/her Garrity rights and ordered to provide full and truthful answers to all questions. The deputy shall be informed that the interview will be for administrative purposes only and that the statement cannot be used criminally.
 - 5. The Administration shall complete all relevant information and reports necessary for the Office to determine compliance with applicable policies.
 - 6. Regardless of whether the use of force is an issue in the case, the completed administrative investigation shall be submitted to the Use of Force Review board, which will restrict its findings as to whether there was compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
 - 7. Any other indications of potential policy violations shall be determined in accordance with standard disciplinary procedures.

305.8 CIVIL LIABILITY RESPONSE

A member of this office may be assigned to work exclusively under the direction of the legal counsel for the Office to assist in the preparation of materials deemed necessary in anticipation of potential civil litigation.

All materials generated in this capacity shall be considered attorney work product and may not be used for any other purpose. The civil liability response is not intended to interfere with any other investigation but shall be given reasonable access to all other investigations.

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305.9 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any officer involved in a shooting or death may be permitted to review available Mobile Audio/Video (MAV), body-worn video, or other video or audio recordings **prior** to providing a recorded statement or completing reports.

Upon request, non-law enforcement witnesses who are able to verify their presence and their ability to contemporaneously perceive events at the scene of an incident may also be permitted to review available MAV, body-worn video, or other video or audio recordings with the approval of assigned investigators or a supervisor.

Any MAV, body-worn and other known video or audio recordings of an incident should not be publicly released during an ongoing investigation without consulting the prosecuting attorney or County Attorney's Office, as appropriate.

305.10 DEBRIEFING

Following an officer-involved shooting or death, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office should conduct both a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and a tactical debriefing. See the Wellness Program Policy **1035** for guidance on Critical Incident Stress Debriefings.

305.10.1 CRITICAL INCIDENT/STRESS DEBRIEFING

A critical incident/stress debriefing should occur as soon as practicable. The Administration Division Chief is responsible for organizing the debriefing. Notes and recorded statements should not be taken because the sole purpose of the debriefing is to help mitigate the stress-related effects of a traumatic event.

The debriefing is not part of any investigative process. Care should be taken not to release or repeat any communication made during a debriefing unless otherwise authorized by policy, law or a valid court order.

Attendance at the debriefing shall only include those members of the Office directly involved in the incident, which can include support personnel (e.g., dispatcher, other non-sworn). Family or other support personnel may attend with the concurrence of those involved in the incident. The debriefing shall be closed to the public and should be closed to all other members of the Office, including supervisory and Administration personnel.

305.10.2 TACTICAL DEBRIEFING

A tactical debriefing should take place to identify any training or areas of policy that need improvement. The Sheriff should identify the appropriate participants. This debriefing should not be conducted until all involved members have provided recorded or formal statements to criminal and/or administrative investigators.

305.11 MEDIA RELATIONS

Any media release shall be prepared with input and concurrence from the supervisor and office representative responsible for each phase of the investigation. Releases will be available to

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the Shift Sergeant, Investigation Division Chief and Public Information Officer in the event of inquiries from the media.

No involved SCSO deputy shall make any comment to the media unless he/she is authorized by the Sheriff or a Division Chief.

Office members receiving inquiries regarding officer-involved shootings or deaths occurring in other jurisdictions shall refrain from public comment and will direct those inquiries to the agency having jurisdiction and primary responsibility for the investigation.

Firearms

306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for issuing firearms, the safe and legal carrying of firearms, firearms maintenance, and firearms training.

This policy does not apply to issues related to the use of firearms that are addressed in the Use of Force or Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths policies.

This policy only applies to those members who are authorized to carry firearms.

306.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will equip its members with firearms to address the risks posed to the public and office members by violent and sometimes well-armed persons. The Office will ensure firearms are appropriate and in good working order and that relevant training is provided as resources allow.

306.3 AUTHORIZED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND OTHER WEAPONS

Members shall only use firearms that are issued or approved by the Office and have been thoroughly inspected by the Rangemaster.

All other weapons not provided by the Office may not be carried by members in the performance of their official duties without the express written authorization of the member's Division Chief including but not limited to:

- (a) Edged weapons.
- (b) Chemical or electronic weapons.
- (c) Impact weapons.
- (d) Any weapon prohibited, or restricted by law, or that is not covered elsewhere by office policy.

This exclusion does not apply to the carrying of a single folding pocketknife that is not otherwise prohibited by law.

306.3.1 HANDGUNS

The authorized office-issued handgun is the Glock 21 .45.

306.3.2 SHOTGUNS

The authorized office-issued shotgun is the Remington 870.

When not deployed, the shotgun shall be properly secured consistent with office training in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle.

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306.3.3 PATROL RIFLES

The authorized office-issued patrol rifle is the AR-15 or .223 caliber/ 5.56 mm variant rifle approved by the firearms instructor.

Members may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the member can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Situations where the member reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- (b) When a member is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.
- (c) Situations where a member reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- (d) When a member reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.
- (e) When a member reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

When not deployed, the patrol rifle shall be properly secured consistent with office training in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle.

306.3.4 PERSONALLY OWNED DUTY FIREARMS

Members desiring to carry an authorized but personally owned duty firearm must receive written approval from the Sheriff or the authorized designee. Once approved, personally owned duty firearms are subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The firearm shall be in good working order and on the office list of approved firearms.
- (b) The firearm shall be inspected by the Rangemaster prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.
- (c) Prior to carrying the firearm, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the office qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the firearm functions properly.
- (d) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm to the Rangemaster, who will maintain a list of the information.

306.3.5 AUTHORIZED SECONDARY HANDGUN

Members desiring to carry office or personally owned secondary handguns are subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The handgun shall be in good working order and on the office list of approved firearms.
- (b) Only one secondary handgun may be carried at a time.

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- (c) The purchase of the handgun and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member unless the handgun and ammunition are provided by the Office.
- (d) The handgun shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- (e) The handgun shall be inspected by the Rangemaster prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.
- (f) Ammunition shall be the same as office issue. If the caliber of the handgun is other than office issue, the Sheriff or the authorized designee shall approve the ammunition.
- (g) Prior to carrying the secondary handgun, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the office qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the handgun functions properly.
- (h) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of a secondary handgun to the Rangemaster, who will maintain a list of the information.

306.3.6 AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY FIREARMS

The carrying of firearms by members while off-duty is permitted by the Sheriff but may be rescinded should circumstances dictate (e.g., administrative leave). Members who choose to carry a firearm while off-duty, based on their authority as peace officers, will be required to meet the following guidelines:

- (a) A personally owned firearm shall be used, carried and inspected in accordance with the Personally Owned Duty Firearms requirements in this policy.
 - 1. The purchase of the personally owned firearm and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member.
- (b) The firearm shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- (c) It will be the responsibility of the member to submit the firearm to the Rangemaster for inspection prior to being personally carried. Thereafter the firearm shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Rangemaster.
- (d) Prior to carrying any off-duty firearm, the member shall demonstrate to the Rangemaster that he/she is proficient in handling and firing the firearm and that it will be carried in a safe manner.
- (e) The member will successfully qualify with the firearm prior to it being carried.
- (f) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm to the Rangemaster, who will maintain a list of the information.
- (g) If a member desires to use more than one firearm while off-duty, he/she may do so, as long as all requirements set forth in this policy for each firearm are met.
- (h) Members shall only carry office-authorized ammunition.

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- (i) When armed, deputies shall carry their badges and Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification cards under circumstances requiring possession of such identification.

306.3.7 AMMUNITION

Members shall carry only office-authorized ammunition. Members shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for all office-issued firearms during the member's firearms qualification. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Office shall be dispensed by the Rangemaster when needed, in accordance with established policy.

Members carrying personally owned authorized firearms of a caliber differing from office-issued firearms shall be responsible for obtaining fresh duty ammunition in accordance with the above, at their own expense.

306.4 EQUIPMENT

Firearms carried on- or off-duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. Maintenance and repair of authorized personally owned firearms are the responsibility of the individual member.

306.4.1 REPAIRS OR MODIFICATIONS

Each member shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned firearm to a supervisor or the Rangemaster.

Firearms that are the property of the Office or personally owned firearms that are approved for office use may be repaired or modified only by a person who is office-approved and certified as an armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific firearm. Such modification or repair must be authorized in advance by the Rangemaster.

Any repairs or modifications to the member's personally owned firearm shall be done at his/her expense and must be approved by the Rangemaster.

306.4.2 HOLSTERS

Only office-approved holsters shall be used and worn by members. Members shall periodically inspect their holsters to make sure they are serviceable and provide the proper security and retention of the handgun.

306.4.3 TACTICAL LIGHTS

Tactical lights may only be installed on a firearm carried on- or off-duty after they have been examined and approved by the Rangemaster. Once the approved tactical lights have been properly installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper functionality and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it.

306.4.4 OPTICS OR LASER SIGHTS

Optics or laser sights may only be installed on a firearm carried on- or off-duty after they have been examined and approved by the Rangemaster. Any approved sight shall only be installed in strict accordance with manufacturer specifications. Once approved sights have been properly

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installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper functionality and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it.

Except in an approved training situation, a member may only sight in on a target when the member would otherwise be justified in pointing a firearm at the target.

306.5 SAFE HANDLING, INSPECTION AND STORAGE

Members shall maintain the highest level of safety when handling firearms and shall consider the following:

- (a) Members shall not unnecessarily display or handle any firearm.
- (b) Members shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the range and shall obey all orders issued by the Rangemaster. Members shall not dry fire or practice quick draws except as instructed by the Rangemaster or other firearms training staff.
- (c) Members shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Office, except where clearing barrels are present.
- (d) Shotguns or rifles removed from vehicles or the equipment storage room shall be loaded and unloaded in the parking lot and outside of the vehicle, using clearing barrels.
- (e) Members shall not place or store any firearm or other weapon on office premises except where the place of storage is locked. No one shall carry firearms into the jail section or any part thereof when securing or processing an arrestee, but shall place all firearms in a secured location. Members providing access to the jail section to persons from outside agencies are responsible for ensuring firearms are not brought into the jail section.
- (f) Members shall not use any automatic firearm, heavy caliber rifle, gas or other type of chemical weapon or firearm from the armory, except with approval of a supervisor.
- (g) Any firearm authorized by the Office to be carried on- or off-duty that is determined by a member to be malfunctioning or in need of service or repair shall not be carried. It shall be promptly presented to the Office or a Rangemaster approved by the Office for inspection and repair. Any firearm deemed in need of repair or service by the Rangemaster will be immediately removed from service. If the firearm is the member's primary duty firearm, a replacement firearm will be issued to the member until the duty firearm is serviceable.

306.5.1 INSPECTION AND STORAGE

Handguns shall be inspected regularly and upon access or possession by another person. Shotguns and rifles shall be inspected at the beginning of the shift by the member to whom the weapon is issued. The member shall ensure that the firearm is carried in the proper condition and loaded with approved ammunition. Inspection of the shotgun and rifle shall be done while standing outside of the patrol vehicle. All firearms shall be pointed in a safe direction or into clearing barrels.

Personally owned firearms may be safely stored in lockers at the end of the shift. Office-owned firearms shall be stored in the appropriate equipment storage room. Handguns may remain loaded

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if they are secured in an appropriate holster. Shotguns and rifles shall be unloaded in a safe manner outside the building and then stored in the appropriate equipment storage room.

306.5.2 STORAGE AT HOME

Members shall ensure that all firearms and ammunition are locked and secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, and in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and others who should not have access. Members shall not permit office-issued firearms to be handled by anyone not authorized by the Office to do so. Members should be aware that negligent storage of a firearm could result in civil liability. The Sheriff's Office will provide a handgun safe to all personnel issued a handgun.

306.5.3 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Firearms shall not be carried by any member, either on- or off-duty, who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage, taken any drugs or medication, or has taken any combination thereof that would tend to adversely affect the member's senses or judgment.

306.6 FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

All members who carry a firearm while on-duty are required to successfully complete training bi-annually with their duty firearms. In addition to bi-annual training, all members will qualify at least annually with their duty firearms. Members will qualify with off-duty and secondary firearms at least twice a year. Training and qualifications must be on an approved range course.

At least annually, all members carrying a firearm should receive practical training designed to simulate field situations including low-light shooting.

306.6.1 NON-CERTIFICATION OR NON-QUALIFICATION

If any member fails to meet minimum standards for firearms training or qualification by the end of their assigned qualification day for any reason, including injury, illness, duty status or scheduling conflict, that member shall submit a memorandum to his/her immediate supervisor prior to the end of the required training or qualification period.

Those who fail to meet minimum standards or qualify on their first for record shooting attempt on qualification day shall be provided remedial training and will be subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Additional range assignments may be scheduled to assist the member in demonstrating consistent firearm proficiency.
- (b) Members shall be given credit for a range training or qualification when obtaining a qualifying score or meeting standards after remedial training.
- (c) No range credit will be given for the following:
 - 1. Unauthorized range make-up.
 - 2. Failure to meet minimum standards or qualify after remedial training.

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Members who repeatedly fail to meet minimum standards will be removed from field assignment and may be subject to disciplinary action.

306.7 FIREARM DISCHARGE

Except during training or recreational use, any member who discharges a firearm intentionally or unintentionally, on- or off-duty, shall make a verbal report to his/her supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. If the discharge results in injury or death to another person, additional statements and reports shall be made in accordance with the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy. If a firearm was discharged as a use of force, the involved member shall adhere to the additional reporting requirements set forth in the Use of Force Policy.

In all other cases, written reports shall be made as follows:

- (a) If on-duty at the time of the incident, the member shall file a written report with his/her Division Chief or provide a recorded statement to investigators prior to the end of shift, unless otherwise directed.
- (b) If off-duty at the time of the incident, a written report shall be submitted or recorded statement provided no later than the end of the next regularly scheduled shift, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

306.7.1 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Members are authorized to use firearms to stop an animal in circumstances where the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

In circumstances where there is sufficient advance notice that a potentially dangerous animal may be encountered, office members should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal (e.g., fire extinguisher, TASER device, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, animal control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any member from shooting a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed or becomes impractical.

306.7.2 INJURED ANIMALS

A member may euthanize an animal that is so badly injured that human compassion requires its removal from further suffering and where other dispositions are impractical.

306.7.3 WARNING AND OTHER SHOTS

Generally, warning shots or shots fired for the purpose of summoning aid are discouraged and may not be discharged unless the member reasonably believes that they appear necessary, effective and reasonably safe.

306.8 RANGEMASTER DUTIES

The range will be under the exclusive control of the Rangemaster. All members attending will follow the directions of the Rangemaster. The Rangemaster will maintain a roster of all members attending the range and will submit the roster to the Training Manager after each range date.

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Failure of any deputy to sign in and out with the Rangemaster may result in non-participation or non-qualification.

The range shall remain operational and accessible to office members during hours established by the Office.

The Rangemaster has the responsibility of making periodic inspections, at least once a year, of all duty weapons carried by deputies of this office to verify proper operation. The Rangemaster has the authority to deem any office-issued or personally owned firearm unfit for service. The member will be responsible for all repairs to his/her personally owned firearm; it will not be returned to service until inspected and approved by the Rangemaster.

The Rangemaster has the responsibility for ensuring each member meets the minimum requirements during training shoots and, on at least a yearly basis, can demonstrate proficiency in the care, cleaning and safety of all firearms the member is authorized to carry.

The Rangemaster shall complete and submit to the Training Manager documentation of the training courses provided. Documentation shall include the qualifications of each instructor who provides the training, a description of the training provided and, on a form that has been approved by the Office, a list of each member who completes the training. The Rangemaster should keep accurate records of all training shoots, qualifications, repairs, maintenance or other records as directed by the Training Manager.

306.9 FLYING WHILE ARMED

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to deputies who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

- (a) Deputies wishing to fly while armed must be flying in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure, and must have a need to have the firearm accessible, as determined by the Office based on the law and published TSA rules.
- (b) Deputies must carry their Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification card, bearing the deputy's name, a full-face photograph, identification number, the deputy's signature and the signature of the Sheriff or the official seal of the Office and must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The deputy should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver license, passport).
- (c) The Skamania County Sheriff's Office must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message prior to the deputy's travel. If approved, TSA will send the Skamania County Sheriff's Office an NLETS message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier. The deputy must present the message on the day of travel to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed.
- (d) An official letter signed by the Sheriff authorizing armed travel may also accompany the deputy. The letter should outline the deputy's need to fly armed, detail his/her

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itinerary, and include that the deputy has completed the mandatory TSA training for a law enforcement officer flying while armed.

- (e) Deputies must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering deputies flying while armed. The training shall be given by the office-appointed instructor.
- (f) It is the deputy's responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification should be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.
- (g) Any deputy flying while armed should discreetly contact the flight crew prior to take-off and notify them of his/her assigned seat.
- (h) Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The deputy must keep the firearm concealed on his/her person at all times. Firearms are not permitted in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.
- (i) Deputies should try to resolve any problems associated with flying armed through the flight captain, ground security manager, TSA representative or other management representative of the air carrier.
- (j) Deputies shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft, or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

306.10 CARRYING FIREARMS OUT OF STATE

Qualified, active, full-time deputies of this office are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC § 926B):

- (a) The deputy shall carry his/her Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification card whenever carrying such firearm.
- (b) The deputy is not the subject of any current disciplinary action.
- (c) The deputy may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.
- (d) The deputy will remain subject to this and all other office policies (including qualifying and training).

Deputies are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property, or that prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park. Federal authority may not shield a deputy from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

Active permits from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B.

Vehicle Pursuits

307.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for vehicle pursuits in order to protect the safety of involved deputies, the public, and fleeing suspects.

307.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Blocking or vehicle intercept - A slow-speed coordinated maneuver where two or more pursuing vehicles simultaneously intercept and block the movement of a suspect vehicle, the driver of which may be unaware of the impending enforcement stop. The goal is containment and preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not a moving or stationary roadblock.

Boxing-in - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed maneuver designed to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out, stall, and come to a stop.

Ramming - The deliberate act of contacting a suspect's vehicle with another law enforcement vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.

Roadblocks - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by intentionally placing a law enforcement vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the suspect's vehicle.

Terminate - To discontinue a pursuit or stop chasing fleeing vehicles.

Tire deflation device - A device designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle.

Trail - Following the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow rate of speed, the trailing vehicle will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit vehicles so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

Vehicle pursuit - An event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect, who is attempting to avoid arrest while operating a vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to a deputy's emergency signal to stop (RCW 10.116.060).

307.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to weigh the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.

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307.3 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized sheriff's office emergency vehicles that are equipped with and displaying emergency lighting and sirens as required by law.

Deputies shall drive with **due regard** for the safety of all persons and property. However, deputies may, when in pursuit of a suspect and provided there is no unreasonable risk to persons and property (RCW 46.61.035):

- (a) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- (b) Exceed the speed limit.
- (c) Disregard regulations governing parking, direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

307.3.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Deputies are not authorized to initiate a pursuit unless authorized by a supervisor and the following criteria exists (RCW 10.116.060):

- (a) Either:
 - 1. There is probable cause to believe that a person in the vehicle has committed or is committing a violent offense or sex offense as defined in RCW 9A.030 or an escape under Chapter 9A.76 RCW; or
 - 2. There is reasonable suspicion that a person in the vehicle has committed or is committing an impaired driving offense under RCW 46.61.502.
- (b) The pursuit is necessary for the purpose of identifying or apprehending the person.
- (c) The person poses an imminent threat to the safety of others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person is considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicle pursuit under the circumstances.

The deputy requesting authorization and the supervisor shall consider alternatives to initiating a vehicle pursuit as well as safety considerations (RCW 10.116.060).

307.3.2 VEHICLE PURSUIT FACTORS

Factors that shall be considered, both individually and collectively, when deciding to initiate or continue a pursuit include but are not limited to (RCW 10.116.060):

- (a) The seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety.
- (b) The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to deputies, innocent motorists, and others.
- (c) The safety of the public in the area of the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (e.g., school zones), and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.

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- (d) The pursuing deputies' familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing vehicles and the dispatcher/supervisor, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing deputies under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (e) Whether weather, traffic, and road conditions unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.
- (f) Whether the identity of the suspect has been verified and whether there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.
- (g) The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speed and other conditions of the pursuit.
- (h) Emergency lighting and siren limitations on unmarked sheriff's office vehicles that may reduce visibility of the vehicle, such as visor or dash-mounted lights, concealable or temporary emergency lighting equipment, and concealed or obstructed siren positioning.
- (i) Vehicle speeds.
- (j) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., minors, passengers, co-offenders, hostages).
- (k) The availability of other resources, such as air support assistance.
- (l) Whether the pursuing vehicle is carrying passengers other than on-duty sheriff's deputies. Pursuits should not be undertaken with an arrestee in the pursuit vehicle unless exigent circumstances exist, and then only after the need to apprehend the suspect is weighed against the safety of the arrestee in transport. A vehicle containing more than a single arrestee should not be involved in a pursuit.

307.3.3 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be terminated whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the deputy or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

When a supervisor directs the pursuit to be terminated, deputies will immediately terminate the pursuit.

The factors listed in this policy on when to initiate a pursuit will apply equally to the decision to terminate a pursuit. Deputies and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists, themselves and the public when electing to continue a pursuit.

In addition to the factors that govern when to initiate a pursuit, other factors should be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit, including:

- (a) The distance between the pursuing vehicle and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time or distance.
- (b) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.

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- (c) The pursuing vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) The pursuing vehicle's emergency lighting equipment or siren becomes partially or completely inoperable.
- (e) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (f) The danger that the continued pursuit poses to the public, the deputies or the suspect, balanced against the risk of allowing the suspect to remain at large.
- (g) The identity of the suspect is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit.
- (h) Extended pursuits of violators for misdemeanors not involving violence or weapons (independent of the pursuit) are generally discouraged.

307.4 PURSUIT VEHICLES

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked sheriff's office emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable.

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three sheriff's office emergency vehicles (two pursuit vehicles and the supervisor vehicle). However, the number of vehicles involved will vary with the circumstances.

A deputy or supervisor may request that additional vehicles join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of deputies involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the number of suspects. All other deputies shall stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any deputy who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the pursuit termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

307.4.1 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Deputies operating vehicles not equipped with emergency lights and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. Deputies in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing vehicles as long as the vehicle is operated in compliance with all traffic laws. Those deputies should discontinue such support immediately upon arrival of a sufficient number of authorized emergency sheriff's office vehicles or any air support.

307.4.2 PRIMARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing deputy will be designated as the primary pursuit vehicle and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless he/she is unable to remain reasonably close to the suspect's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the deputy initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspect without unreasonable danger to him/herself or others.

The primary pursuing deputy should notify the dispatcher, commencing with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including, but not limited to:

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- (a) The location, direction of travel and estimated speed of the suspect's vehicle.
- (b) The description of the suspect's vehicle including the license plate number, if known.
- (c) The reason for the pursuit.
- (d) The use of firearms, threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages or other unusual hazards.
- (e) The number of occupants and identity or description.
- (f) The weather, road and traffic conditions.
- (g) The need for any additional resources or equipment.
- (h) The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

Until relieved by a supervisor or a secondary pursuing deputy, the deputy in the primary pursuit vehicle shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary pursuing deputy should, as soon as practicable, relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a deputy in a secondary pursuit vehicle or to air support joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing deputy to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

307.4.3 SECONDARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The second deputy in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary pursuit vehicle and is responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying the dispatcher of his/her entry into the pursuit.
- (b) Remaining a safe distance behind the primary pursuit vehicle unless directed to assume the role of primary pursuit vehicle or if the primary pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.
- (c) Broadcasting information that the primary pursuing deputy is unable to provide.
- (d) Broadcasting the progress of the pursuit, updating known or critical information and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (e) Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.
- (f) Serving as backup to the primary pursuing deputy once the suspect has been stopped.

307.5 PURSUIT DRIVING

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of the factors the deputy considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for deputies who are involved in the pursuit:

- (a) Deputies, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to unusual maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- (b) Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:

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1. Available deputies not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.
 2. Pursuing deputies should exercise due caution and slow down as may be necessary when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- (c) As a general rule, deputies should not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong direction on a roadway, highway or freeway. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
- (a) Request assistance from available air support.
 - (b) Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling the vehicle while driving on the correct side of the roadway.
 - (c) Request other deputies to observe exits available to the suspect.
- (d) Notify the Washington State Patrol or other law enforcement agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter its jurisdiction.
- (e) Deputies involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other pursuing vehicles unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the pursuing deputy and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved deputies.

307.5.1 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event that initial pursuing deputies relinquish control of the pursuit to another agency, the initial deputies may, with the permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide information and assistance for the arrest of the suspect and reporting the incident.

307.5.2 AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

When available, air support assistance should be requested.

307.5.3 DEPUTIES NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

Deputies who are not involved in the pursuit should remain in their assigned areas, should not parallel the pursuit route and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor. Uninvolved deputies are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Those deputies should attempt to place their vehicles in locations that provide some safety or an escape route in the event of an unintended collision or if the suspect intentionally tries to ram the sheriff's office vehicle.

Non-pursuing members needed at the pursuit termination point should respond in a nonemergency manner, observing the rules of the road.

The primary pursuit vehicle, secondary pursuit vehicle and supervisor vehicle should be the only vehicles operating under emergency conditions (emergency lights and siren) unless other deputies are assigned to the pursuit.

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307.6 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Available supervisory and management control will be exercised over all vehicle pursuits involving deputies from this office (RCW 10.116.060).

The field supervisor of the deputy initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest field supervisor, will be responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying involved deputies and the dispatcher of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit. This is to ensure that the pursuit is conducted within established office guidelines.
- (b) Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- (c) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (d) Ensuring that no more than the required law enforcement vehicles are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- (e) Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in the field supervisor's judgment, it is not justified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (f) Ensuring that assistance from air support, canines, or additional resources is requested, if available and appropriate.
- (g) Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- (h) Ensuring that the Shift Sergeant is notified of the pursuit, as soon as practicable.
- (i) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this office.
- (j) Controlling and managing Skamania County Sheriff's Office deputies when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (k) Preparing a post-pursuit review and documentation of the pursuit as required.

307.7 DISPATCH

If the pursuit is confined within the County limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this office or such is imminent, involved deputies should, whenever available, switch radio communications to a tactical or emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies.

307.7.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification or becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the dispatcher is responsible for:

- (a) Clearing the radio channel of nonemergency traffic.
- (b) Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved deputies.
- (c) Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.

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- (d) Ensuring that a field supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- (e) Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (f) Notifying the Shift Sergeant as soon as practicable.
- (g) Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.

307.8 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

When the pursued vehicle is lost, the involved deputies should broadcast pertinent information to assist other deputies in locating the vehicle. The primary pursuing deputy or supervisor will be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

307.9 INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary pursuing deputy or supervisor, taking into consideration the distance traveled, unfamiliarity with the area and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the pursuit.

Unless entry into another jurisdiction is expected to be brief, it is generally recommended that the primary pursuing deputy or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether the jurisdiction is expected to assist.

307.9.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Deputies will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved deputies may proceed, with supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation. The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information that is necessary for any reports.

The roles and responsibilities of deputies at the termination point of a pursuit initiated by this office shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the needs of the agency assuming the pursuit.

Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific. Because of communication limitations between local law enforcement agencies, a request for another agency's assistance will mean that its personnel will assume responsibility for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves another jurisdiction and a request for assistance is made to this office, the other agency should relinquish control.

307.9.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Deputies from this office should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing

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agency and with approval from a supervisor. The exception to this is when a single vehicle from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, a deputy from this office may, with supervisor approval, immediately join the pursuit until sufficient vehicles from the initiating agency join the pursuit or until additional information is provided allowing withdrawal from the pursuit.

When a request is made for this office to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, the supervisor should consider:

- (a) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (b) The safety of the pursuing deputies.
- (c) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (d) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (e) The ability to maintain the pursuit.

As soon as practicable, a supervisor should review a request for assistance from another agency. The supervisor, after considering the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing agency by deputies of this office will conclude at the County limits, provided that the pursuing agency has sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this office may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that the termination point of a pursuit from another agency is within this jurisdiction, deputies shall provide appropriate assistance including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

307.10 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

Pursuit intervention is an attempt to stop the suspect's ability to continue to flee in a vehicle through tactical application of technology, tire deflation devices, blocking or vehicle intercept, boxing-in, the PIT, ramming or roadblock procedures.

307.10.1 WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED

Whenever practicable, an deputy shall seek approval from a supervisor before employing any intervention to stop the pursued vehicle. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, deputies/supervisors should balance the risk of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the deputies and persons in or on the pursued vehicle. With this in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances apparent to the deputy at the time of the decision.

307.10.2 USE OF FIREARMS

The use of firearms to disable a pursued vehicle is not generally an effective tactic and involves all the dangers associated with discharging firearms. Deputies should not utilize firearms during an ongoing pursuit unless the conditions and circumstances meet the requirements authorizing the

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use of deadly force. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any deputy from using a firearm to stop a suspect from using a vehicle as a deadly weapon (see the Use of Force Policy).

307.10.3 INTERVENTION STANDARDS/TACTICAL VEHICLE INTERVENTION (TVI)

Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the deputies, the public, or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to policies guiding such use. Deputies shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where, and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

- (a) Blocking or vehicle intercept should only be considered in cases involving felony suspects or impaired drivers who pose a threat to the public's safety, and when deputies reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in the vehicle. Because of the potential risks involved, this intervention tactic should only be employed by properly trained deputies and after giving consideration to the following:
 - (a) The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risk of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, deputies, or others.
 - (b) All other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.
 - (c) Employing the blocking or vehicle intercept maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk of danger to those involved or the public.
 - (d) The suspect vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.
 - (e) Only law enforcement vehicles should be used in this tactic.
 - (f) An avenue of egress must be evident.
- (b) The PIT is limited to use by properly trained deputies with the approval of a supervisor and upon assessment of the circumstances and conditions presented at the time, including the potential for risk of injury to deputies, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
- (c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the deputy's disposal have been exhausted or would not be effective, and immediate control is necessary. Ramming should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method. If there does not reasonably appear to be a present or immediately foreseeable serious threat to the public, the use of ramming is not authorized. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, the following factors should be present:
 - 1. The suspect is an actual or suspected felon, who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.
 - 2. The suspect is driving with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of other persons or is driving in a reckless and life-endangering manner or using the vehicle as a weapon.

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- (d) Boxing-in a suspect vehicle should only be attempted upon approval by a supervisor. The use of such a tactic must be carefully coordinated with all involved vehicles, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to deputies, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Deputies and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.
- (e) Tire deflation devices should be deployed only after notification of pursuing deputies and the supervisor of the intent and location of the intended deployment, and in a manner that:
 - (a) Should reasonably only affect the pursued vehicle.
 - (b) Provides the deploying deputy adequate cover and escape from intentional or unintentional exposure to the approaching vehicle.
 - (c) Takes into account the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risk to deputies, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
 - (d) Takes into account whether the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials, or a school bus transporting children.
- (f) Because roadblocks involve a potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop, the intentional placement of roadblocks in the direct path of a pursued vehicle is generally discouraged and should not be deployed without prior approval of a supervisor. If roadblocks are deployed, it should only be done under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective and the need to immediately stop the pursued vehicle substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, deputies, or the public.

307.11 CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Deputies shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the deputy at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing deputy should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect following the pursuit. Deputies should consider the safety of the public and the involved deputies when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspect.

307.12 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All appropriate reports shall be completed to comply with appropriate laws and policies or procedures.

- (a) The primary pursuing deputy shall complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.
- (b) The primary pursuing deputy or supervisor shall complete the appropriate pursuit report.

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- (c) After first obtaining the available information, the involved, or if unavailable, on-duty field supervisor shall promptly complete a supervisor's log or interoffice memorandum, briefly summarizing the pursuit to the Sheriff or the authorized designee. This log or memorandum should include, at a minimum:
 - 1. Date and time of the pursuit.
 - 2. Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
 - 3. Length of pursuit in distance and time, including the starting and termination points.
 - 4. Involved vehicles and deputies.
 - 5. Alleged offenses.
 - 6. Whether a suspect was apprehended, as well as the means and methods used.
 - (a) Any use of force shall be reported and documented in compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
 - 7. Arrestee information, if applicable.
 - 8. Any injuries and/or medical treatment.
 - 9. Any property or equipment damage.
 - 10. Name of supervisor at the scene or who handled the incident.
 - 11. A preliminary determination that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy or that additional review and/or follow-up is warranted.
- (d) After receiving copies of reports, logs and other pertinent information, the Sheriff or the authorized designee shall conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review, as appropriate.
- (e) Annually, the Sheriff should direct a documented review and analysis of office vehicle pursuits to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance and training needs.

307.13 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all deputies will participate, no less than annually, in regular and periodic training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public. Training will include recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to deputies and others.

307.14 POLICY REVIEW

Deputies of this office shall certify in writing that they have received, read and understand this policy initially, upon any amendments and whenever training on the policy is provided.

Deputy Response to Calls

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides deputies with guidelines for the safe and appropriate vehicular response to emergency and non-emergency incidents or requests for assistance, whether these are dispatched or self-initiated.

308.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to appropriately respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service or requests for assistance, whether these are dispatched or self-initiated.

308.3 RESPONSE TO CALLS

Deputies responding to non-emergency calls shall proceed accordingly, unless they are sent or redirected to a higher priority call, and shall obey all traffic laws. Routine responses include all normal vehicle operations. **Code One** response means no emergency equipment: no emergency lights, siren, and following all traffic laws.

Urgent responses are calls that are not life-threatening, but where a more rapid response would enhance the likelihood of apprehension of a suspect. We use **Code Two** (emergency lights, but no siren) when our rapid response will reduce the extent of crime or increase the likelihood of capturing criminals. In any **Code Two** response, the responding Deputy will utilize their emergency siren (audible signal) when approaching intersections, in heavy traffic or when the likelihood of encountering pedestrian traffic exists.

Emergency responses are where a rapid response can be a life-saving factor. This response is designated as a **Code Three** response (emergency lights and siren).

During **Code Two** and **Three** response driving, the responding units are required to drive with due care and caution for the safety of all other people in the area. Responding units are not relieved of this duty during **Code Two** and **Three** responses.

308.3.1 EMERGENCY CALLS

Deputies responding to an emergency call shall proceed immediately as appropriate and shall continuously operate the emergency vehicle lighting and siren as required by law (RCW 46.61.035).

Deputies should only respond to a call as an emergency response when so dispatched or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required. This includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) When in pursuit or apprehending a violator or suspected violator.
- (b) When responding to a reported emergency involving possible personal injury, death or significant property damage.

Deputy Response to Calls

- (c) When immediate assistance is requested by a deputy or other law enforcement agency.

If a deputy believes an emergency response to any call is appropriate, the deputy shall immediately notify the dispatcher. Deputies not responding to a call as an emergency response shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

308.4 REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

When requesting emergency assistance, the involved office member should reasonably believe there is an imminent threat to the safety of him/herself or another person, or that assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to the public.

If circumstances permit, the requesting member should provide the following information:

- Identifying call sign
- Location of the emergency situation
- Suspect information, including weapons
- Reason for the request and type of emergency
- The number of deputies or resources required
- Hazards and any known or potential dangers for responding deputies

In any event where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting member shall immediately notify the dispatcher.

308.5 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Responding with emergency lights and siren does not relieve the operator of an emergency vehicle of the duty to continue to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property, and does not protect the operator from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others. However the deputy may, when responding to a call with an emergency response, and provided there is no endangerment or unnecessary risk to persons and property (RCW 46.61.035):

- Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- Exceed the speed limit.
- Disregard regulations governing parking, direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

308.5.1 NUMBER OF DEPUTIES ASSIGNED

The number of deputies assigned to respond to an emergency call or request for assistance should be limited to that which is reasonably necessary.

An emergency response involving more than one sheriff's vehicle should be approved and coordinated by the shift sergeant to avoid any unanticipated intersecting of response routes.

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The dispatcher shall notify the Shift Sergeant or field supervisor, who will make a determination regarding the appropriateness of the response and reduce or enhance the response as warranted.

308.6 EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Vehicles not equipped with emergency lights and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in an emergency response. Deputies in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing vehicles as long as the vehicles are operated in compliance with all traffic laws. Those deputies should terminate their involvement in any emergency response immediately upon arrival of a sufficient number of emergency law enforcement vehicles.

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the deputy must terminate the emergency response and continue accordingly. The deputy shall notify the Shift Sergeant, field supervisor or the dispatcher of the equipment failure so that another deputy may be assigned to the emergency response.

308.7 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

The decision to initiate or continue an emergency response is at the discretion of the deputy. If, in the deputy's judgment, the weather, traffic and road conditions do not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the deputy may elect to respond to the call without the use of emergency lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the deputy should immediately notify the dispatcher. A deputy shall also discontinue an emergency response when directed by a supervisor or as otherwise appropriate.

Upon receiving authorization or determining that an emergency response is appropriate, whenever practicable, a deputy shall immediately give the location from which he/she is responding.

The first deputy arriving at the emergency call should determine whether to increase or reduce the level of the response of additional deputies and shall notify the dispatcher of his/her determination. Any subsequent change in the appropriate response level should be communicated to the dispatcher by the deputy in charge of the scene unless a supervisor assumes this responsibility.

308.8 DISPATCH

When information reasonably indicates that the public is threatened with serious injury or death, or a deputy requests emergency assistance and immediate law enforcement response is needed, the dispatcher shall assign an emergency response and ensure acknowledgement and response of handling and assisting deputies. In all other circumstances, the dispatcher shall obtain authorization from the Shift Sergeant or a field supervisor prior to assigning an emergency response.

308.8.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification or assignment of an emergency response, the dispatcher is responsible for:

- (a) Confirming the location from which the deputy is responding or requesting assistance.

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- (b) Attempting to assign the closest available assisting deputies to the location of the emergency call.
- (c) Continuing to obtain and broadcast information as necessary concerning the response and monitoring the situation until it is stabilized or terminated.
- (d) Notifying and coordinating allied emergency services (e.g., fire, emergency medical services).
- (e) Notifying the Shift Sergeant as soon as practicable.
- (f) Controlling all radio communications during the emergency and coordinating assistance under the direction of the Shift Sergeant or field supervisor.

308.9 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that an emergency response has been initiated or requested, the Shift Sergeant or the field supervisor shall verify that:

- (a) The proper response has been initiated.
- (b) No more than those deputies reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response.
- (c) Affected outside jurisdictions are being notified as practicable.

The on-duty supervisor shall monitor the response until it has been stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing deputies into or out of the response, if necessary. If, in the supervisor's judgment, the circumstances require additional deputies to be assigned an emergency response, the supervisor may do so.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to terminate an emergency response that, in his/her judgment is inappropriate due to the circumstances.

When making the decision to authorize an emergency response, the Shift Sergeant or the field supervisor should consider:

- The type of call or crime involved.
- The type and circumstances of the request.
- The necessity of a timely response.
- Weather, traffic and road conditions.
- The location of the responding deputies and the location of the incident.

Canines

309.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of canines to augment law enforcement services in the community including, but not limited to, locating individuals and contraband and apprehending criminal offenders.

309.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that teams of handlers and canines meet and maintain the appropriate proficiency to safely, effectively, and reasonably carry out legitimate law enforcement objectives.

309.3 ASSIGNMENT

Canine teams should be assigned to assist and supplement the Patrol Division to function primarily in assist or cover assignments. However, they may be assigned by the Shift Sergeant to other functions, such as routine calls for service, based on the current operational needs.

309.4 CANINE SUPERVISOR

The canine team's Shift Sergeant shall be directly responsible for the canine team assigned to his or her squad.

The responsibilities of the canine supervisor include but are not limited to:

- (a) Reviewing all canine use reports to ensure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.
- (b) Maintaining a liaison with the vendor kennel.
- (c) Maintaining a liaison with command staff and functional supervisors.
- (d) Maintaining a liaison with other agency canine coordinators/supervisors.
- (e) Ensuring canine handlers are maintaining accurate records and to document canine activities and required training.
- (f) Recommending and overseeing the procurement of equipment and services for the teams of handlers and canines.
- (g) Scheduling all canine-related activities.
- (h) Ensuring the canine teams are scheduled for regular training to maximize their capabilities.

309.5 REQUESTS FOR CANINE TEAMS

Patrol Division members are encouraged to request the use of a canine. Requests for a canine team from office units outside of the Patrol Division shall be reviewed by the Shift Sergeant.

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309.5.1 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUEST

All requests for canine assistance from outside agencies must be approved by a supervisor and are subject to the following:

- (a) Canine teams shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
- (b) The canine handler shall have the authority to decline a request for any specific assignment that he/she deems unsuitable.
- (c)
- (d) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate operations with agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.
- (e) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to complete all necessary reports or as directed.

309.5.2 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

All public requests for a canine team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the canine supervisor prior to making any resource commitment. The canine supervisor is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in the demonstration to include proper safety protocols. Canine handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work unless authorized to do so by the canine supervisor.

309.6 APPREHENSION GUIDELINES

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has committed, is committing, or is threatening to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

- (a) There is a reasonable belief the suspect poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any deputies, or the handler.
- (b) The suspect is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
- (c) The suspect is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of deputies or the public.

It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. Such events require consideration of the totality of the circumstances and the use of an objective reasonableness standard applied to the decision to use a canine.

Absent a reasonable belief that a suspect has committed, is committing, or is threatening to commit a serious offense, mere flight from a pursuing deputy, without any of the above conditions, shall not serve as the basis for the use of a canine to apprehend a suspect.

Use of a canine to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for a lesser criminal offense than those identified above requires approval from the Shift Sergeant. Absent a change in circumstances that presents an imminent threat to deputies, the canine, or the public, such canine use should

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be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.

In all applications, once the suspect has been located and no longer reasonably appears to present a threat or risk of escape, the handler should secure the canine as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

If the canine has apprehended the suspect with a secure bite, and the handler believes that the suspect no longer poses a threat, the handler should promptly command the canine to release the suspect.

309.6.1 PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any suspect, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on-scene should carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information should include but is not limited to:

- (a) The nature and seriousness of the suspected offense.
- (b) Whether violence or weapons were used or are anticipated.
- (c) The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the suspect has shown.
- (d) The suspect's known or perceived age.
- (e) The potential for injury to deputies or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.
- (f) Any potential danger to the public and/or other deputies at the scene if the canine is released.
- (g) The potential for the suspect to escape or flee if the canine is not utilized.
- (h) Known cautions or violent history regarding suspect's previous contacts towards law enforcement.

As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved members to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

It is the canine handler's responsibility to evaluate each situation and determine whether the use of a canine is appropriate and reasonable. The canine handler shall have the authority to decline the use of the canine whenever he/she deems deployment is unsuitable.

A supervisor who is sufficiently apprised of the situation may prohibit deploying the canine.

Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

309.6.2 WARNINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless it would increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning announcing that a canine will be used if the suspect does not surrender should be made prior to releasing a canine. The handler should allow a reasonable time for a suspect to surrender and should quiet the canine momentarily to listen for any verbal response to the warning. If feasible, other members should

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be in a location opposite the warning to verify that the announcement could be heard. If available, warnings given in other languages should be used as necessary.

If a warning is not to be given, the canine handler, when practicable, should first advise the supervisor of his/her decision before releasing the canine. In the event of an apprehension, the handler shall document in any related report how the warning was given and, if none was given, the reasons why.

309.6.3 REPORTING DEPLOYMENTS, BITES, AND INJURIES

Handlers should document canine deployments in a canine use report. Whenever a canine deployment results in a bite or causes injury to an intended suspect, a supervisor should be promptly notified and the injuries documented in the canine use report. The injured person shall be promptly treated by Emergency Medical Services personnel and, if appropriate, transported to an appropriate medical facility for further treatment. The deployment and injuries should also be included in any related incident or arrest report.

Any unintended bite or injury caused by a canine, whether on- or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the canine supervisor. Unintended bites or injuries caused by a canine should be documented in an administrative report, not in a canine use report.

If an individual alleges an injury, either visible or not visible, a supervisor shall be notified and both the individual's injured and uninjured areas shall be photographed as soon as practicable after first tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. Photographs shall be retained as evidence in accordance with current office evidence procedures. The photographs shall be retained until the criminal proceeding is completed and the time for any related civil proceeding has expired.

309.7 NON-APPREHENSION GUIDELINES

Properly trained canines may be used to track or search for non-criminals (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention). The canine handler is responsible for determining the canine's suitability for such assignments based on the conditions and the particular abilities of the canine. When the canine is deployed in a search or other non-apprehension operation, the following guidelines apply:

- (a) Absent a change in circumstances that presents an imminent threat to deputies, the canine, or the public, such applications should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual, if located.
- (b) Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.
- (c) Throughout the deployment, the handler should periodically give verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the individual and encourage the individual to make him/herself known.
- (d) Once the individual has been located, the handler should place the canine in a down-stay or otherwise secure it as soon as reasonably practicable.

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309.7.1 ARTICLE DETECTION

A canine trained to find objects or property related to a person or crime may be used to locate or identify articles. A canine search should be conducted in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of unintended bites or injuries.

309.7.2 NARCOTICS DETECTION

A canine trained in narcotics detection may be used in accordance with current law and under certain circumstances, including:

- (a) The search of vehicles, buildings, bags, and other articles.
- (b) Assisting in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
- (c) Obtaining a search warrant by using the narcotics-detection trained canine in support of probable cause.

A narcotics-detection trained canine will not be used to search a person for narcotics unless the canine is trained to passively indicate the presence of narcotics.

309.7.3 BOMB/EXPLOSIVE DETECTION

Because of the high risk of danger to the public and deputies when a bomb or other explosive device is suspected, the use of a canine team trained in explosive detection may be considered. When available, an explosive-detection canine team may be used in accordance with current law and under certain circumstances, including:

- (a) Assisting in the search of a building, structure, area, vehicle, or article where an actual or suspected explosive device has been reported or located.
- (b) Assisting with searches at transportation facilities and vehicles (e.g., buses, airplanes, trains).
- (c) Preventive searches at special events, VIP visits, official buildings, and other restricted areas. Searches of individuals should remain minimally intrusive and shall be strictly limited to the purpose of detecting explosives.
- (d) Assisting in the search of scenes where an explosion has occurred and an explosive device or secondary explosive device is suspected.

At no time will an explosive-detection trained canine be used to render a suspected device safe or clear.

309.8 HANDLER SELECTION

The minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler include:

- (a) A deputy who is currently off probation.
- (b) Residing in an adequately fenced single-family residence (minimum 5-foot-high fence with locking gates).
- (c) A secure structure must be maintained to allow the canine suitable accommodations during inclement weather.
- (d) Living within 30 minutes travel time from the Skamania County limits.

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- (e) Agreeing to be assigned to the position for a minimum of three years.

309.9 HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The canine handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection, and living conditions.

The canine handler will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Except as required during appropriate deployment, the handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.
- (b) The handler shall maintain all office equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition.
- (c) Handlers shall permit the canine supervisor to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their homes as well as their canine vehicles to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.
- (d) Any changes in the living status of the handler that may affect the lodging or environment of the canine shall be reported to the canine supervisor as soon as possible.
- (e) When off-duty, the canine shall be in a kennel provided by the County at the home of the handler. When a canine is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured with a lock. When off-duty, the canine may be let out of the kennel while under the direct control of the handler.
- (f) The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.
- (g) Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the canine supervisor or Shift Sergeant.
- (h) When off-duty, the handler shall not involve the canine in any law enforcement activity or official conduct unless approved in advance by the canine supervisor or Shift Sergeant.
- (i) Whenever a canine handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the canine supervisor so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

309.9.1 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS

The canine should be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

- (a) A canine shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.
- (b) When the canine vehicle is left unattended, all windows and doors shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the canine. The handler shall also ensure that the unattended vehicle remains inhabitable for the canine.

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309.9.2 REQUIRED CANINE TEAM EQUIPMENT

The canine team shall have the minimum following equipment readily available within their assigned canine patrol vehicle:

- a. Harness with visible SHERIFF's Office markings
- b. Long lead (leash)
- c. Short lead (leash)
- d. Muzzle
- e. Electronic obedience collar (if applicable)

309.10 HANDLER COMPENSATION

The canine handler shall be available for call-out under conditions specified by the canine supervisor.

The canine handler shall be compensated for time spent in the care, feeding, grooming, and other needs of the canine in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement/memorandum of understanding (29 USC § 207).

309.11 CANINE INJURY AND MEDICAL CARE

In the event that a canine is injured, or there is an indication that the canine is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to the canine supervisor or Shift Sergeant as soon as practicable and appropriately documented.

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency where treatment should be obtained from the nearest available veterinarian. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the handler's personnel file.

309.12 TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) standards. Cross-trained canine teams or those canine teams trained exclusively for the detection of narcotics and/or explosives also shall be trained and certified to meet current CJTC standards (WAC 139-05-915).

The canine supervisor shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all office members in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of office canines. Because canines may be exposed to dangerous substances such as opioids, as resources are available, the canine supervisor should also schedule periodic training for the canine handlers about the risks of exposure and treatment for it.

All canine training shall be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the canine supervisor or Shift Sergeant.

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309.12.1 CONTINUED TRAINING

Each canine team shall be recertified to current CJTC standards. A canine team's certification will automatically expire if the handler and canine originally paired at the time of certification are no longer working together, or if the function for which the team was certified changes (WAC 139-05-915). Additional training considerations are as follows:

- (a) Canine teams should receive training as defined in the current contract with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office canine training provider.
- (b) Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the canine supervisor.
- (c) To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is not reviewed and approved by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

309.12.2 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING

Any canine team failing to graduate or obtain certification shall not be deployed in the field for tasks the team is not certified to perform until graduation or certification is achieved. When reasonably practicable, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.

309.12.3 TRAINING RECORDS

A record for each canine that includes training, performance and identification records, and that meets CJTC requirements, shall be created and maintained in the canine handler's and the canine's training file.

309.12.4 TRAINING AIDS

Training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of canines. Deputies possessing, using or transporting controlled substances or explosives for canine training purposes must comply with federal and state requirements. Alternatively, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office may work with outside trainers with the applicable licenses or permits.

309.12.5 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS

Deputies acting in the performance of their official duties may possess or transfer controlled substances for the purpose of narcotics-detection canine training in compliance with state and federal laws (21 USC § 823(f); RCW 69.50.302; RCW 69.50.508; WAC 246-945-060).

The Sheriff or the authorized designee may authorize a member to seek a court order to allow controlled substances seized by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to be possessed by the member or a narcotics-detection canine trainer who is working under the direction of this office for training purposes, provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence.

As an alternative, the Sheriff or the authorized designee may request narcotics training aids from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

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These procedures are not required if the canine handler uses commercially available synthetic substances that are not controlled narcotics.

309.12.6 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROCEDURES

Due to the responsibilities and liabilities involved with possessing readily usable amounts of controlled substances and the ever-present danger of the canine's accidental ingestion of these controlled substances, the following procedures shall be strictly followed:

- (a) All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler or trainer.
- (b) The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by the Skamania County Sheriff's office.
- (c) Any person possessing controlled substance training samples pursuant to court order or DEA registration shall maintain custody and control of the controlled substances and shall keep records regarding any loss of, or damage to, those controlled substances.
- (d) All controlled substance training samples will be inspected, weighed, and tested quarterly. The results of the quarterly testing shall be recorded and maintained by the canine supervisor with a copy forwarded to the dispensing agency.
- (e) All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked, airtight, and watertight cases at all times, except during training. The locked cases shall be secured in the trunk of the canine handler's assigned patrol vehicle during transport and stored in an appropriate locked container. There are no exceptions to this procedure.
- (f) The canine supervisor shall periodically inspect every controlled substance training sample for damage or tampering and take any appropriate action.
- (g) Any unusable controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the Evidence Room or to the dispensing agency.
- (h) All controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the dispensing agency upon the conclusion of the training or upon demand by the dispensing agency.

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310.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the guidelines necessary to deter, prevent and reduce domestic violence through vigorous enforcement and to address domestic violence as a serious crime against society. The policy specifically addresses the commitment of this office to take enforcement action when appropriate, to provide assistance to victims and to guide deputies in the investigation of domestic violence.

310.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Court order - All forms of orders related to domestic violence, that have been issued by a court of this state or another, whether civil or criminal, regardless of whether service has been made.

Domestic violence - Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, sexual assault, or stalking of one intimate partner by another intimate partner; or physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, sexual assault, or stalking of one family or household member by another family or household member (RCW 10.99.020; RCW 26.50.010).

Household Members/Intimate Partner - The Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Investigative Procedure applies to any call for law enforcement assistance involving a disturbance, physical or verbal, between persons who are family or household members. It is therefore important that deputies be able to determine "family or household members" as defined by [RCW 26.50.010 \(2\)](#):

"Family or household member" includes:

- (a) Spouse, or domestic partner
- (b) Former spouse, or former domestic partner
- (c) Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have married or have lived together in the past
- (d) Adult persons related by blood or marriage
- (e) Adult persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past
- (f) Persons sixteen (16) years of age or older who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past and who have had a dating relationship
- (g) Persons sixteen years of age or older with whom a person sixteen years of age or older has or has had a dating relationship
- (h) Persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren

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310.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office's response to incidents of domestic violence and violations of related court orders shall stress enforcement of the law to protect the victim and shall communicate the philosophy that domestic violence is criminal behavior. It is also the policy of this office to facilitate victims' and offenders' access to appropriate civil remedies and community resources whenever feasible.

310.3 OFFICER SAFETY

The investigation of domestic violence cases often places deputies in emotionally charged and sometimes highly dangerous environments. No provision of this policy is intended to supersede the responsibility of all deputies to exercise due caution and reasonable care in providing for the safety of any deputies and parties involved.

310.4 INVESTIGATIONS

The following guidelines should be followed by deputies when investigating domestic violence cases:

- (a) Calls of reported, threatened, imminent, or ongoing domestic violence and the violation of any court order are of extreme importance and should be considered among the highest response priorities. This includes incomplete 9-1-1 calls.
- (b) When practicable, deputies should obtain and document statements from the victim, the suspect, and any witnesses, including children, in or around the household or location of occurrence.
- (c) Deputies should list the full name and date of birth (and school if available) of each child who was present in the household at the time of the offense. The names of other children who may not have been in the house at that particular time should also be obtained for follow-up.
- (d) When practicable and legally permitted, video or audio record all significant statements and observations.
- (e) All injuries should be photographed, regardless of severity, taking care to preserve the victim's personal privacy. Where practicable, photographs should be taken by a person of the same sex. Victims whose injuries are not visible at the time of the incident should be asked to contact the Detective Unit in the event that the injuries later become visible.
- (f) Deputies should request that the victim complete and sign an authorization for release of medical records related to the incident when applicable.
- (g) If the suspect is no longer at the scene, deputies should make reasonable efforts to locate the suspect to further the investigation, provide the suspect with an opportunity to make a statement, and make an arrest or seek an arrest warrant if appropriate.
- (h) Seize any firearms or other dangerous weapons in the home, if appropriate and legally permitted, for safekeeping or as evidence.

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1. Deputies who have probable cause that a crime has been committed shall lawfully seize all firearms and ammunition that they reasonably believe were used or threatened to be used in the commission of the offense. Deputies shall also seize all evidence in accordance with current Washington State law. Deputies shall request consent to take temporary custody of any other firearms and ammunition that the alleged suspect may have access to (RCW 10.99.030).
 2. Deputies shall separate the victim and inquire the suspect has access to any firearms either on the premises or stored elsewhere, whether the suspect has a concealed pistol license, and whether a firearm has ever been used by the suspect under other circumstances that could be threatening or coercive (RCW 10.99.030).
- (i) When completing an incident or arrest report for violation of a court order, deputies should include specific information that establishes that the offender has been served, including the date the offender was served, the name of the agency that served the order, and the provision of the order that the subject is alleged to have violated. When reasonably available, the arresting deputy should attach a copy of the order to the incident or arrest report.
- (j) Deputies should take appropriate enforcement action when there is probable cause to believe an offense has occurred. Factors that should not be used as sole justification for declining to take enforcement action include:
1. Whether the suspect lives on the premises with the victim.
 2. Claims by the suspect that the victim provoked or perpetuated the violence.
 3. The potential financial or child custody consequences of arrest.
 4. The physical or emotional state of either party.
 5. Use of drugs or alcohol by either party.
 6. Denial that the abuse occurred where evidence indicates otherwise.
 7. A request by the victim not to arrest the suspect.
 8. Location of the incident (public/private).
 9. Speculation that the complainant may not follow through with the prosecution.
 10. Actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or marital status of the victim or suspect.
 11. The social status, community status, or professional position of the victim or suspect.
- (k) Unless doing so would jeopardize the criminal investigation, the victim should be apprised of investigative plans such as when the suspect or witnesses are going to be interviewed and any plans for making an arrest.

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310.4.1 HOSPITALIZED VICTIM

When responding to a medical facility regarding an injured person, deputies should make a reasonable attempt to determine whether the injury was a result of domestic violence prior to contacting the victim or person who reported the incident.

If domestic violence is suspected, contact should be made with the medical facility representatives out of the view and hearing of the victim and any potential suspects when practical.

310.4.2 IF A SUSPECT IS ARRESTED

If a suspect is arrested, deputies should:

- (a) Advise the victim that there is no guarantee the suspect will remain in custody.
- (b) Provide the victim's contact information to the jail staff to enable notification of the victim upon the suspect's release from jail.
- (c) Advise the victim whether any type of court order will be in effect when the suspect is released from jail.

310.4.3 IF NO ARREST IS MADE

If no arrest is made, the deputy should:

- (a) Advise the parties of any options, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Voluntary separation of the parties.
 - 2. Appropriate resource referrals (e.g., counselors, friends, relatives, shelter homes, victim witness unit).
- (b) Document the resolution in a report.

310.4.4 GATHERING AND PRESERVING EVIDENCE

Deputies should collect and preserve all evidence necessary to support the case.

Victim

- (a) Administer or arrange for first aid to the victim.
- (b) Describe the victim's location upon arrival. (Neighbor's house, shelter, church, etc.)
- (c) Record any spontaneous statements made by the victim.
- (d) Describe the victim's emotional demeanor.
- (e) Describe the victim's physical condition (injuries, intoxication, pregnant, handicapped, etc.)
- (f) Document the victim's injuries in detail to include photographs.
- (g) Document evidence of substance/chemical use by victim; including times and amount of use.
- (h) Make note of the victim's relationship to the suspect.
- (i) Record history of abuse.

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- (j) Note any temporary restraining/court orders.
- (k) Give victim required written information on social agencies, legal steps, etc.
- (l) Record any temporary address/telephone of victim.
- (m) Recover any documentation of prior assaults or other crimes: photos, diary, calendar, berating or apologizing letters, identification of witnesses to prior bad acts, etc.
- (n) Request victim to complete a Smith declaration. Obtain the declaration if the victim is willing. If not, make a note of the request and refusal in your report.

Suspect

- (a) Describe the suspect's location upon arrival.
- (b) Administer or arrange for first aid to the suspect.
- (c) Record any spontaneous statements made by the suspect.
- (d) Describe the suspect's emotional demeanor.
- (e) Describe the suspect's physical condition (injuries, intoxication, pregnant, handicapped, etc.).
- (f) Document the suspect's injuries in detail to include photographs.
- (g) Document evidence of substance/chemical use by suspect, including times and amount of use.
- (h) Interview the suspect.

Witness

- (a) Interview the children and record statements in report.
- (b) Interview the reporting party.
- (c) Identify all witnesses and interview separately.
- (d) List names and ages of children present.
- (e) Record names and addresses of emergency/medical personnel.
- (f) Identify treating physician and nurses.

Evidence

- (a) Photograph the crime scene and all relevant evidence.
- (b) Take full body, intermediate range, and close-up photographs of the victim and injuries.
- (c) If the preliminary deputy will not be available within 24-72 hours, ask the victim to contact Sheriff's Office so that additional photographs can be taken of injuries, as they become more visible.
- (d) Take full body and intermediate range photographs of suspect for self-defense claims.
- (e) Attach the completed Smith Declaration. (NOTE: The affidavit should be completed & signed in your presence so you can testify accordingly.)

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- (f) Attach a signed medical release, regardless if they plan to seek medical attention. Get the name of family physician or mental health provider.
- (g) Seize related evidence.
- (h) Impound all weapons used.
- (i) Impound weapons for safekeeping.
- (j) Attach related reports, statements, orders, and property sheets. Photos should be placed on a disc and entered into evidence or should be uploaded to the EPR report.

310.5 VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Victims may be traumatized or confused. Deputies should:

- (a) Recognize that a victim's behavior and actions may be affected.
- (b) Provide the victim with the office's domestic violence information handout, even if the incident may not rise to the level of a crime.
- (c) Alert the victim to any available victim advocates, shelters and community resources.
- (d) Stand by for a reasonable amount of time when an involved person requests law enforcement assistance while removing essential items of personal property.
- (e) Seek medical assistance as soon as practicable for the victim if he/she has sustained injury or complains of pain.
- (f) Ask the victim whether he/she has a safe place to stay. Assist in arranging to transport the victim to an alternate shelter if the victim expresses a concern for his/her safety or if the deputy determines that a need exists.
- (g) Make reasonable efforts to ensure that children or dependent adults who are under the supervision of the suspect or victim are being properly cared for.
- (h) Seek or assist the victim in obtaining an emergency order if appropriate.

310.6 DISPATCH ASSISTANCE

All calls of domestic violence, including incomplete 9-1-1 calls, should be dispatched as soon as practicable.

Dispatchers are not required to verify the validity of a court order before responding to a request for assistance. Deputies should request that dispatchers check whether any of the involved persons are subject to the terms of a court order.

310.7 FOREIGN COURT ORDERS

Various types of orders may be issued in domestic violence cases. Any foreign court order properly issued by a court of another state, Indian tribe or territory shall be enforced by deputies as if it were the order of a court in this state. An order should be considered properly issued when it reasonably appears that the issuing court has jurisdiction over the parties and reasonable notice

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and opportunity to respond was given to the party against whom the order was issued (18 USC § 2265). An otherwise valid out-of-state court order shall be enforced, regardless of whether the order has been properly registered with this state.

310.7.1 CANADIAN COURT ORDERS

Any foreign court order properly issued in Canada shall be enforced by a deputy as a foreign court order above. Any notice, if required, should be made in compliance with RCW 26.55.020.

310.8 VERIFICATION OF COURT ORDERS

Determining the validity of a court order, particularly an order from another jurisdiction, can be challenging. Therefore, in determining whether there is probable cause to make an arrest for a violation of any court order, deputies should carefully review the actual order when available, and, where appropriate and practicable:

- (a) Ask the subject of the order about his/her notice or receipt of the order, his/her knowledge of its terms, and efforts to respond to the order.
- (b) Check available records or databases that may show the status or conditions of the order.
- (c) Contact the issuing court to verify the validity of the order.
- (d) Contact a law enforcement official from the jurisdiction where the order was issued to verify information.

Deputies should document in an appropriate report their efforts to verify the validity of an order, regardless of whether an arrest is made. Deputies should contact a supervisor for clarification when needed.

310.9 STANDARDS FOR ARRESTS

Deputies investigating a domestic violence report should consider the following:

- (a) The primary duty of deputies when responding to a domestic violence situation is to enforce the laws allegedly violated and to protect the complaining party (RCW 10.99.030(1)).
- (b) When a deputy responds to a domestic violence call and has probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed, he/she shall make an arrest pursuant to the criteria in RCW 10.31.100 and RCW 10.99.030(2)(a).
- (c) When a deputy has confirmed that a valid court order exists and has probable cause to believe the defendant has violated that order, the deputy shall make a physical arrest (RCW 10.99.055; RCW 10.31.100(2)). Whenever a member of this office serves or assists in serving a court order and that service is completed, a return of service form shall be completed and submitted to the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC).

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310.10 MANDATORY ARREST

RCW 10.31.100 (2) (a) An order has been issued of which the person has knowledge under RCW 26.44.063, or chapter 10.99, 26.09, 26.10, 26.26, 26.50, or 74.34 RCW restraining the person and the person has violated the terms of the order restraining the person from acts or threats of violence, or restraining the person from going onto the grounds of or entering a residence, workplace, school, or day care, or prohibiting the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of a location or, in the case of an order issued under RCW 26.44.063, imposing any other restrictions or conditions upon the person; or (b) A foreign protection order, as defined in RCW 26.52.010, has been issued of which the person under restraint has knowledge and the person under restraint has violated a provision of the foreign protection order prohibiting the person under restraint from contacting or communicating with another person, or excluding the person under restraint from a residence, workplace, school, or day care, or prohibiting the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of a location, or a violation of any provision for which the foreign protection order specifically indicates that a violation will be a crime; or

(c) "The person is eighteen years or older and within the preceding four hours has assaulted a family or household member or intimate partner as defined in RCW 26.50.010 "

- 1) If the suspect is at the scene and mandatory arrest is warranted:
 - a) Take the suspect into custody and solicit admissions and/or statements when applicable;
 - b) Conduct an area search for, and seize weapons, pursuant to state law and department policy;
 - c) Document and photograph the elements of the offense and the probable cause in the Incident Report, noting every possible crime committed;
 - d) Give resource information to the victim.
- 2) If the suspect has fled the scene and mandatory arrest is warranted:
 - a) Obtain the possible locations where the suspect would go and request checks by appropriate law enforcement agency with probable cause to arrest.
 - b) Issue an "attempt to locate".
 - c) Complete the Probable Cause Statement and Booking Sheet when appropriate for use with the BOLO.

310.11 REPORTS AND RECORDS

- (a) Deputies responding to a domestic violence call shall take a complete offense report, including the disposition of the case (RCW 10.99.030(2)(b)).
 1. The report shall include all information about firearms and concealed pistol licenses and be properly coded to alert any officials reviewing the report to the existence of the information concerning firearms (RCW 10.99.030).

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- (b) All such reports should be documented under the appropriate crime classification and should use the distinction "Domestic Violence" in the Type of Crime box of the crime report form (RCW 10.99.035).
- (c) Whenever there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and unless the case is under active investigation, the Investigation Supervisor shall ensure that all domestic violence crime reports are forwarded to the County Prosecutor's Office within 10 days of the date the incident was reported (RCW 10.99.035).
- (d) The Chief Civil Deputy shall ensure that accurate records of domestic violence incidents are maintained and submitted to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, in accordance with state law (RCW 10.99.035).
- (e) The Chief Civil Deputy should ensure that the original receipt issued for any firearm, dangerous weapon, or pistol license surrendered after service of a protection order is filed with the court within 24 hours of service of the order and retain a copy of the receipt electronically if available (RCW 9.41.801).

310.12 COURT ORDERS

The Chief Civil Deputy shall ensure that no-contact orders received from the court are entered into the WACIC or other applicable criminal intelligence information system for one year or until the expiration date specified on the order (RCW 10.99.040; RCW 10.99.050).

310.13 SERVICE OF COURT ORDERS

The deputy serving a protection order, no-contact order, or restraining order that includes an order to surrender all firearms, dangerous weapons, and a concealed pistol license under RCW 9.41.800 shall (RCW 9.41.801):

- (a) Advise the subject that the order is effective upon service.
- (b) Request that any firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license be immediately surrendered. Deputies shall take possession of any firearms discovered in plain view, lawful search, or consent from the subject.
 - 1. If the subject indicates by word or action that he/she will not comply with a request to surrender firearms, dangerous weapons, or a concealed pistol license, consideration should be given to obtaining a search warrant for seizure.
- (c) Issue a receipt for any surrendered items.
 - 1. The deputy should ensure the original receipt is forwarded to the Chief Civil Deputy as soon as practicable for filing with the court.

All firearms and weapons collected shall be handled and booked in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy.

310.14 ORDERS TO SHOW CAUSE

When the Office receives notice from the court of an order to show cause regarding the surrender of weapons, the Detective Unit supervisor should consult with legal counsel, as appropriate, to address any requirements involving the Office, including the following (RCW 9.41.801):

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- (a) Fulfilling any additional service requirements for the order to show cause.
- (b) Providing the court a complete list of firearms and other dangerous weapons surrendered by the person pursuant to the court order that are in the possession of the Office.
- (c) Providing the court with verification that any concealed pistol license was surrendered by the person pursuant to the court order and that the agency with authority to revoke the license has been notified.
- (d) Filing an affidavit with the court where there is reasonable suspicion that the person who is subject to the court order is not in full compliance with the terms, including the basis for the belief.

Search and Seizure

311.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Both the federal and state Constitutions provide every individual with the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. This policy provides general guidelines for Skamania County Sheriff's Office personnel to consider when dealing with search and seizure issues.

311.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to respect the fundamental privacy rights of individuals. Members of this office will conduct searches in strict observance of the constitutional rights of persons being searched. All seizures by this office will comply with relevant federal and state law governing the seizure of persons and property.

The Office will provide relevant and current training to deputies as guidance for the application of current law, local community standards and prosecutorial considerations regarding specific search and seizure situations, as appropriate.

311.3 SEARCHES

The U.S. Constitution generally provides that a valid warrant is required in order for a search to be valid. There are, however, several exceptions that permit a warrantless search.

Examples of law enforcement activities that are exceptions to the general warrant requirement include, but are not limited to, searches pursuant to the following:

- Valid consent
- Incident to a lawful arrest
- Legitimate community caretaking interests
- Exigent circumstances
- Reasonably believe evidence of a crime is being destroyed

Certain other activities are recognized by federal and state courts and by certain statutes as legitimate law enforcement activities that also do not require a warrant. Such activities may include seizure and examination of abandoned property and observations of activities and property located on open public areas.

Because case law regarding search and seizure is constantly changing and subject to interpretation by the courts, each member of this office is expected to act in each situation according to current training and his/her familiarity with clearly established rights as determined by case law.

Whenever practicable, deputies are encouraged to contact a supervisor to resolve questions regarding search and seizure issues prior to electing a course of action.

Search and Seizure

311.3.1 RESTRICTIONS ON CELL SITE SIMULATOR USE

A member may only install or use a pen register, trap and trace device, or cell site simulator device with a supporting court order or when there is both coordination with a prosecuting attorney and joint determination of probable cause to believe an emergency situation exists that involves immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury to a person. A court order must be obtained within 48 hours after installation of the pen register, trap and trace device, or cell site simulator device when an emergency situation exists ([RCW 9.73.260](#)).

311.4 SEARCH PROTOCOL

Although conditions will vary and officer safety and other exigencies must be considered in every search situation, the following guidelines should be followed whenever circumstances permit:

- (a) Members of this office will strive to conduct searches with dignity and courtesy.
- (b) Deputies should explain to the person being searched the reason for the search and how the search will be conducted.
- (c) Searches should be carried out with due regard and respect for private property interests and in a manner that minimizes damage. Property should be left in a condition as close as reasonably possible to its pre-search condition.
- (d) In order to minimize the need for forcible entry, an attempt should be made to obtain keys, combinations or access codes when a search of locked property is anticipated.
- (e) When the person to be searched is of the opposite sex as the searching deputy, a reasonable effort should be made to summon a deputy of the same sex as the subject to conduct the search. When it is not practicable to summon a deputy of the same sex as the subject, the following guidelines should be followed:
 1. Another deputy or a supervisor should witness the search.
 2. The deputy should not search areas of the body covered by tight-fitting clothing, sheer clothing or clothing that could not reasonably conceal a weapon.

311.5 DOCUMENTATION

Deputies are responsible to document any search and to ensure that any required reports are sufficient including, at minimum, documentation of the following:

- Reason for the search
- Any efforts used to minimize the intrusiveness of any search (e.g., asking for consent or keys)
- What, if any, injuries or damage occurred
- All steps taken to secure property
- The results of the search, including a description of any property or contraband seized

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- If the person searched is the opposite sex, any efforts to summon a deputy of the same sex as the person being searched and the identification of any witness deputy

Supervisors shall review reports to ensure the reports are accurate, that actions are properly documented and that current legal requirements and office policy have been met.

Temporary Custody of Juveniles

312.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines consistent with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act for juveniles taken into temporary custody by members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office (34 USC § 11133).

312.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Juvenile non-offender - An abused, neglected, dependent or alien juvenile who may be legally held for his/her own safety or welfare. This also includes any juvenile who may have initially been contacted for an offense that would not subject an adult to arrest (e.g., fine-only offense) but was taken into custody for his/her protection, or for purposes of reuniting the juvenile with a parent, guardian, or other responsible person.

Juvenile offender - A juvenile 17 years of age or younger who is alleged to have committed an offense that would subject an adult to arrest (a non-status offense) or a juvenile who has violated RCW 9.41.040(2)(a) by possessing a handgun (28 CFR 31.303).

Non-secure custody - When a juvenile is held in the presence of a deputy or other custody employee at all times and is not placed in a locked room, cell or behind any locked doors. Juveniles in non-secure custody may be handcuffed but not to a stationary or secure object. Personal supervision, through direct visual monitoring and audio two-way communication is maintained. Monitoring through electronic devices, such as video, does not replace direct visual observation.

Secure custody - When a juvenile offender is held in a locked room, a set of rooms, or a cell. Secure custody also includes being physically secured to a stationary object.

Examples of secure custody include:

- (a) A juvenile left alone in an unlocked room within the secure perimeter of the adult temporary holding area.
- (b) A juvenile handcuffed to a rail.
- (c) A juvenile placed in a room that contains doors with delayed egress devices that have a delay of more than 30 seconds.
- (d) A juvenile being processed in a secure booking area when an unsecure booking area is available.
- (e) A juvenile left alone in a secure booking area after being photographed and fingerprinted.
- (f) A juvenile placed in a cell within the adult temporary holding area, whether or not the cell door is locked.
- (g) A juvenile placed in a room that is capable of being locked or contains a fixed object designed for cuffing or restricting movement.

Temporary Custody of Juveniles

Sight and sound separation - Located or arranged to prevent physical, visual, or auditory contact.

Status offender - A juvenile suspected of committing a criminal violation of the law that would not be a criminal violation but for the age of the offender. Examples may include running away, underage possession of tobacco, curfew violation, or truancy. A juvenile in custody on a court order or warrant based upon a status offense is also a status offender(such as a juvenile found in contempt of court related to a truancy or At-Risk Youth order/proceeding, or MIP returned for a probation violation).

312.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to releasing juveniles from temporary custody as soon as reasonably practicable and keeping juveniles safe while they are in temporary custody at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. Juveniles should be held in temporary custody only for as long as reasonably necessary for processing, transfer or release.

312.3 JUVENILES WHO SHOULD NOT BE HELD

Juveniles who exhibit any of the following conditions should not be held at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office:

- (a) Unconscious
- (b) Seriously injured
- (c) A known suicide risk or obviously severely emotionally disturbed
- (d) Significantly intoxicated
- (e) Extremely violent or continuously violent

Deputies taking custody of a juvenile who exhibits any of the above conditions should take reasonable steps to provide medical attention or mental health assistance and notify a supervisor of the situation.

These juveniles should not be held at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office unless they have been evaluated by a qualified medical and/or mental health professional.

If the deputy taking custody of the juvenile believes the juvenile may be a suicide risk, the juvenile shall be under continuous direct supervision until evaluation, release or a transfer is completed.

312.4 CUSTODY OF JUVENILES

Deputies should take custody of a juvenile and temporarily hold the juvenile at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office when there is no other lawful and practicable alternative to temporary custody. Refer to the Child Abuse Policy for additional information regarding detaining a juvenile who is suspected of being a victim.

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No juvenile should be held in temporary custody at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office without authorization of the arresting deputy's supervisor or the Shift Sergeant. Juveniles taken into custody shall be held in non-secure custody unless otherwise authorized by this policy.

Any juvenile taken into custody shall be released to the care of the juvenile's parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult or transferred to a juvenile custody facility or to other authority as soon as practicable and in no event shall a juvenile be held beyond six hours from the time of his/her entry into the Office (34 USC § 11133; RCW 13.04.116(b)).

312.4.1 CUSTODY OF JUVENILE NON-OFFENDERS

Non-offenders taken into protective custody in compliance with the Child Abuse Policy should generally not be held at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. Custodial arrangements should be made for non-offenders as soon as reasonably possible. Juvenile non-offenders may not be held in secure custody (34 USC § 11133).

312.4.2 CUSTODY OF JUVENILE STATUS OFFENDERS

Status offenders should generally be released by citation or referral rather than taken into temporary custody. However, deputies may take custody of a status offender if requested to do so by a parent or legal guardian in order to facilitate reunification (e.g., transported home or to the station to await a parent). Juvenile status offenders may not be held in secure custody (34 USC § 11133; RCW 43.185C.260).

312.4.3 CUSTODY OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juvenile offenders should be held in non-secure custody while at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office unless another form of custody is authorized by this policy or is necessary due to exigent circumstances.

Generally, juvenile offenders may be taken into custody under the following circumstances (RCW 13.40.040(1)):

- (a) Pursuant to a court order.
- (b) Without a court order, by a deputy if grounds exist for the arrest of an adult in identical circumstances.
- (c) When his/her parole has been suspended.

312.4.4 LIMITATIONS ON RELEASE OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juveniles should be referred to the appropriate juvenile authority and not released to a parent or guardian when there is probable cause to believe the juvenile (RCW 13.40.040(2)):

- (a) Will likely fail to appear for further proceedings.
- (b) Needs protection from him/herself.
- (c) Is a threat to community safety.
- (d) Will intimidate witnesses or otherwise unlawfully interfere with the administration of justice.

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- (e) Has committed a crime while another case was pending.
- (f) Is a fugitive from justice.
- (g) Has had his/her parole suspended or modified.
- (h) Is a material witness.

312.4.5 VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A deputy may take a juvenile into custody to investigate possible sexual exploitation when the deputy reasonably believes the juvenile is attempting to engage in sexual conduct for money or anything of value (RCW 43.185C.260).

In these cases, the deputy should transport the juvenile to an authorized evaluation and treatment facility in coordination with a community service provider (RCW 43.185C.260) (see the Child Abuse Policy for any mandatory notification requirements).

312.5 ADVISEMENTS

When a juvenile offender is taken into custody, the deputy should, as soon as practicable, notify the juvenile's parent, guardian, or a responsible relative that the juvenile is in custody.

Juveniles taken into custody should be advised the reason for the custody (RCW 43.185C.265).

312.6 JUVENILE CUSTODY LOGS

Any time a juvenile is held in custody at the Office, the custody shall be promptly and properly documented in the juvenile custody log, including:

- (a) Identifying information about the juvenile being held.
- (b) Date and time of arrival and release from the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.
- (c) Shift Sergeant notification and approval to temporarily hold the juvenile.
- (d) Any charges for which the juvenile is being held and classification of the juvenile as a juvenile offender, status offender or non-offender.
- (e) Any changes in status.
- (f) Time of all welfare checks.
- (g) Any medical and other screening requested and completed.
- (h) Circumstances that justify any secure custody.
- (i) Any other information that may be required by other authorities, such as compliance inspectors or a local juvenile court authority.

The Shift Sergeant shall initial the log to approve the custody, including any secure custody, and shall also initial the log when the juvenile is released.

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312.7 NO-CONTACT REQUIREMENTS

Sight and sound separation shall be maintained between all juveniles and adults while in custody at the Office (34 USC § 11133). There should also be sight and sound separation between non-offenders and juvenile and status offenders.

In situations where brief or accidental contact may occur (e.g., during the brief time a juvenile is being fingerprinted and/or photographed in booking), a member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall maintain a constant, immediate presence with the juvenile or the adult to minimize any contact. If inadvertent or accidental contact does occur, reasonable efforts shall be taken to end the contact.

312.8 TEMPORARY CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS

Members and supervisors assigned to monitor or process any juvenile at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall ensure the following:

- (a) The Shift Sergeant should be notified if it is anticipated that a juvenile may need to remain at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office more than four hours. This will enable the Shift Sergeant to ensure no juvenile is held at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office more than six hours.
- (b) Welfare checks and significant incidents/activities are noted on the log.
- (c) Juveniles in custody are informed that they will be monitored at all times, except when using the toilet.
 - 1. There shall be no viewing devices, such as peep holes or mirrors, of which the juvenile is not aware.
 - 2. This does not apply to surreptitious and legally obtained recorded interrogations.
- (d) A member of the same sex shall supervise personal hygiene activities and care, such as changing clothing or using the restroom, without direct observation to allow for privacy.
- (e) There is reasonable access to toilets and wash basins.
- (f) There is reasonable access to a drinking fountain or water.
- (g) Food should be provided if a juvenile has not eaten within the past four hours or is otherwise in need of nourishment, including any special diet required for the health of the juvenile.
- (h) There are reasonable opportunities to stand and stretch, particularly if handcuffed or restrained in any way.
- (i) There is privacy during family, guardian, and/or attorney visits.
- (j) Juveniles are generally permitted to remain in their personal clothing unless the clothing is taken as evidence or is otherwise unsuitable or inadequate for continued wear while in custody.
- (k) Clean blankets are provided as reasonably necessary to ensure the comfort of an individual.

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1. The supervisor should ensure that there is an adequate supply of clean blankets.
- (l) Adequate shelter, heat, light, and ventilation should be provided without compromising security or enabling escape.
- (m) Adequate furnishings are available, including suitable chairs or benches.
- (n) Juveniles shall have the right to the same number of telephone calls as an adult in custody (see the Temporary Custody of Adults Policy).
- (o) Discipline is not administered to any juvenile, nor will juveniles be subjected to corporal or unusual punishment, humiliation, or mental abuse.

312.9 RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Juveniles have the right to the same religious accommodation as adults in temporary custody (see the Temporary Custody of Adults Policy).

312.10 USE OF RESTRAINT DEVICES

Juvenile offenders may be handcuffed in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. A juvenile offender may be handcuffed at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office when the juvenile presents a heightened risk. However, non-offenders and status offenders should not be handcuffed unless they are combative or threatening.

Other restraints shall only be used after less restrictive measures have failed and with the approval of the Shift Sergeant. Restraints shall only be used so long as it reasonably appears necessary for the juvenile's protection or the protection of others.

Juveniles in restraints shall be kept away from other unrestrained juveniles or monitored in such a way as to protect the juvenile from abuse.

312.10.1 PREGNANT JUVENILES

Juveniles who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. [Skamania County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual: 302.3.2 RESTRAINT OF PREGNANT PERSONS](#)

312.11 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The personal property of a juvenile shall be processed in the same manner as an adult in temporary custody (see the Temporary Custody of Adults Policy).

312.12 SECURE CUSTODY

Only juvenile offenders 12 years and older may be placed in secure custody. Shift Sergeant approval is required before placing a juvenile offender in secure custody.

Secure custody should only be used for juvenile offenders when there is a reasonable belief that the juvenile is a serious risk of harm to him/herself or others.

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Members of this office should not use secure custody for convenience when non-secure custody is, or later becomes, a reasonable option.

When practicable, handcuffing one hand of a juvenile offender to a fixed object while otherwise maintaining the juvenile in non-secure custody should be considered as the method of secure custody, rather than the use of a locked enclosure. An employee must be present at all times to ensure the juvenile's safety while secured to a stationary object.

Generally, juveniles should not be secured to a stationary object for more than 60 minutes. Supervisor approval is required to secure a juvenile to a stationary object for longer than 60 minutes and every 30 minutes thereafter. Supervisor approval should be documented.

312.12.1 LOCKED ENCLOSURES

A thorough inspection of the area shall be conducted before placing a juvenile into the enclosure. A second inspection shall be conducted after removing the juvenile. Any damage noted to the room should be photographed and documented in the crime report.

The following requirements shall apply to a juvenile offender who is held inside a locked enclosure:

- (a) The juvenile shall constantly be monitored by an audio/video system during the entire custody.
- (b) Juveniles shall have constant auditory access to office members.
- (c) Initial placement into and removal from a locked enclosure shall be logged.
- (d) Random personal visual checks of the juvenile by a staff member, no less than every 15 minutes, shall occur.
 - 1. All checks shall be logged.
 - 2. The check should involve questioning the juvenile as to his/her well-being (sleeping juveniles or apparently sleeping juveniles should be awakened).
 - 3. Requests or concerns of the juvenile should be logged.
- (e) Males and females shall not be placed in the same locked room.
- (f) Juvenile offenders should be separated according to severity of the crime (e.g., felony or misdemeanor).
- (g) Restrained juveniles shall not be mixed in a cell or room with unrestrained juveniles.

312.13 SUICIDE ATTEMPT, DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY OF A JUVENILE

The Patrol Division Chief will ensure procedures are in place to address the suicide attempt, death or serious injury of any juvenile held at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The procedures will address:

- (a) Immediate request for emergency medical assistance if appropriate.
- (b) Immediate notification of the on-duty supervisor, Sheriff and Detective Unit supervisor.
- (c) Notification of the parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis, of the juvenile.
- (d) Notification of the appropriate prosecutor.

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- (e) Notification of the County Attorney.
- (f) Notification of the Coroner.
- (g) Notification of the juvenile court.
- (h) Evidence preservation.

312.14 INTERVIEWING OR INTERROGATING JUVENILE SUSPECTS

No interview or interrogation of a juvenile should occur unless the juvenile has the apparent capacity to consent, and does consent, to an interview or interrogation.

Prior to conducting a custodial interrogation, including the waiver of *Miranda* rights, a deputy shall permit a juvenile 17 years of age or younger to consult with legal counsel in person, by telephone, or by video conference. The consultation may not be waived by the juvenile if the law enforcement officer :

- a. Questions a juvenile during a custodial interrogation;
- b. Detains a juvenile based on probable cause of involvement in criminal activity; or
- c. Requests that the juvenile provide consent to an evidentiary search of the juvenile or the juvenile's property, dwellings, or vehicles under the juvenile's control. [RCW 13.40.740](#)

The requirement to consult with legal counsel does not apply when (RCW 13.40.740):

- (a) There is a belief that the juvenile is a victim of trafficking as defined by RCW 9A.40.100.
- (b) Information is necessary to protect an individual's life from an imminent threat.
- (c) A delay to allow legal consultation would impede the protection of an individual's life from imminent threat.
- (d) The questions are limited to what is reasonably expected to obtain the information necessary to protect an individual's life from an imminent threat.

After a consultation, any assertion of constitutional rights by the juvenile through legal counsel must be treated as though it came from the juvenile. The waiver of any constitutional rights of the juvenile may only be made according to the requirements of RCW 13.40.140 (judicial rights) (RCW 13.40.740).

312.14.1 RECORDING OF INTERVIEWS OR INTERROGATIONS

Interrogations or interviews of juvenile suspects shall be recorded when conducted at a place of detention (RCW 10.122.020; RCW 10.122.030). See the Investigation and Prosecution Policy for specific recording requirements.

312.15 RESTRICTION ON FINGERPRINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING

A juvenile offender may be photographed and fingerprinted as provided by RCW 43.43.735.

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312.16 RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING JUVENILES

Court decisions and legislation have combined to carefully specify situations in which information may be given out or exchanged when a case involves a juvenile. Deputies of this office shall not divulge any information regarding juveniles in situations where they are uncertain of the legal authority to do so.

312.16.1 RELEASE OF INFORMATION PURSUANT TO WASHINGTON LAW

Juvenile records are confidential and may be released only as provided in RCW 13.50.010 and RCW 13.50.050:

- (a) Information may be released to other participants in the juvenile justice or care system only when an investigation or case involving the juvenile is being pursued by the other participant, or when that other participant is assigned the responsibility for supervising the juvenile.
- (b) Information not in the juvenile court file that could not reasonably be expected to identify the juvenile or the juvenile's family may be released.
- (c) Following the decision to arrest, information about an investigation, diversion or prosecution of a juvenile, including an incident report, may be released to the school in which the juvenile is enrolled to assist in protecting other students, staff and school property.
- (d) Information about a juvenile offender, the offender's parent or guardian and the circumstances of the crime may be released to the victim or the victim's immediate family.
- (e) Information identifying child victims of sexual assault committed by juvenile offenders may be released only with the permission of the child victim or legal guardian.
- (f) A court may permit certain juvenile records to be released by rule or order.

It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Civil Deputy and the appropriate Detective Unit supervisors to ensure that personnel of those bureaus act within legal guidelines.

Adult Abuse

313.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the investigation and reporting of suspected abuse of certain adults who may be more vulnerable than others. This policy also addresses mandatory notification for Skamania County Sheriff's Office members as required by law.

313.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Adult abuse - Any offense or attempted offense involving violence or neglect of an adult victim when committed by a person responsible for the adult's care, or any other act that would mandate reporting or notification to a social service agency or law enforcement.

Abandons: means leaving a child or other dependent person without the means or ability to obtain one or more of the basic necessities of life.

Basic Necessities of Life: means food, water, shelter, clothing, and medically necessary health care, including but not limited to health-care treatment or activities, hygiene, oxygen, and medications.

Bodily Injury: means physical pain or injury, illness, or impairment of physical condition.

Dependent Person: means a person who, because of physical or mental disability, or because of extreme advanced age, is dependent upon another person to provide the basic necessities of life. A resident of a nursing home, as defined in ([RCW 18.51.010](#)), a resident of an adult family home, as defined in ([RCW 70.128.010](#)), and a frail elder or vulnerable adult, as defined in ([RCW 74.34.020](#)) (13), is presumed to be a dependent person for the purposes of this chapter.

Mental Abuse: means a willful verbal or nonverbal action that threatens, humiliates, harasses, coerces, intimidates, isolates, unreasonably confines, or punishes a vulnerable adult. Mental abuse may include ridiculing, yelling, or swearing.

Physical Abuse: means the willful action of inflicting bodily injury or physical mistreatment. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, striking with or without an object, slapping, pinching, strangling, kicking, shoving, or prodding.

313.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will investigate all reported incidents of alleged adult abuse and ensure proper reporting and notification as required by law.

313.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall notify the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) when there is reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult has occurred. Members shall also

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notify DSHS when there is reason to suspect sexual assault or physical assault or reasonable cause to believe that an act has caused fear of imminent harm. The [MedicalExaminer/JOP] shall also be notified when there is reason to suspect that the death of a vulnerable adult was caused by abuse, neglect, or abandonment by another person ([RCW 74.34.035](#)).

For purposes of notification, the following definitions apply ([RCW 74.34.020](#)):

- Abandonment is action or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care for a vulnerable adult that leaves the person without the means or ability to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter, or health care.
- Abuse is intentional, willful, or reckless action or inaction that inflicts injury, unreasonable confinement or restraint, sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial exploitation, mental abuse, intimidation, or punishment.
- A vulnerable adult is a person who meets any of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is 60 years or older and who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for oneself.
 - (b) Is found by the superior court to be incapacitated under [RCW 11.130.005](#) et seq.
 - (c) Has a developmental disability as defined under [RCW 71A.10.020](#) .
 - (d) Is admitted to any facility as defined in [RCW 74.34.020](#) (e.g., assisted living facility, nursing home, other facility licensed by DSHS).
 - (e) Is receiving services from an individual provider or licensed home health, hospice, or home care agency.
 - (f) Self-directs self-care and receives services from a personal aide under [RCW 74.39.001](#) et seq.

313.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should occur as follows ([RCW 74.34.035](#)):

- (a) All notification to DSHS shall be made immediately or as soon as practicable by telephone
- (b) Information provided shall include, if known:
 1. The name and address of the person making the report.
 2. The name and address of the vulnerable adult.
 3. The name and address of the facility or agency providing care for the vulnerable adult.
 4. The name and address of the legal guardian or alternate decision maker.
 5. The nature and extent of the abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect.
 6. Any history of previous abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect.

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7. The identity of the alleged perpetrator, if known.
8. Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the extent of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or the cause of death of the deceased vulnerable adult.

313.4 QUALIFIED INVESTIGATORS

Qualified investigators should be available to investigate cases of adult abuse. These investigators should:

- (a) Conduct interviews in appropriate interview facilities.
- (b) Be familiar with forensic interview techniques specific to adult abuse investigations.
- (c) Present all cases of alleged adult abuse to the prosecutor for review.
- (d) Coordinate with other enforcement agencies, social service agencies and facility administrators as needed.
- (e) Provide referrals to therapy services, victim advocates, guardians and support for the victim and family as appropriate.
- (f) Participate in or coordinate with multidisciplinary investigative teams as applicable.

313.5 INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING

All reported or suspected cases of adult abuse require investigation and a report, even if the allegations appear unfounded or unsubstantiated. If the investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed, the County prosecutor shall be provided a written report of the incident ([RCW 74.34.063](#) (3)).

Investigations and reports related to suspected cases of adult abuse should address, as applicable:

- (a) The overall basis for the contact. This should be done by the investigating deputy in all circumstances where a suspected adult abuse victim is contacted.
- (b) Any relevant statements the victim may have made and to whom he/she made the statements.
- (c) If a person is taken into protective custody, the reasons, the name and title of the person making the decision, and why other alternatives were not appropriate.
- (d) Documentation of any visible injuries or any injuries identified by the victim. This should include photographs of such injuries, if practicable.
- (e) Whether the victim was transported for medical treatment or a medical examination.
- (f) Whether the victim identified a household member as the alleged perpetrator, and a list of the names of any other potential victims or witnesses who may reside in the residence.
- (g) Identification of any prior related reports or allegations of abuse, including other jurisdictions, as reasonably known.

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- (h) Previous addresses of the victim and suspect.
- (i) Other potential witnesses who have not yet been interviewed, such as relatives or others close to the victim's environment.

Any unexplained death of an adult who was in the care of a guardian or caretaker should be considered as potential adult abuse and investigated similarly.

313.6 PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Before taking an adult abuse victim into protective custody when facts indicate the adult may not be able to care for oneself, the deputy should make reasonable attempts to contact DSHS. Generally, removal of an adult abuse victim from the abuse victim's family, guardian, or other responsible adult should be left to the welfare authorities when they are present or have become involved in an investigation.

Generally, members of this office should remove an adult abuse victim from the abuse victim's family or guardian without a court order only when no other effective alternative is reasonably available and immediate action reasonably appears necessary to protect the victim. Prior to taking an adult abuse victim into protective custody, the deputy should take reasonable steps to deliver the adult to another qualified legal guardian, unless it reasonably appears that the release would endanger the victim or result in abduction. If this is not a reasonable option, the deputy shall ensure that the adult is delivered to DSHS.

Whenever practicable, the deputy should inform a supervisor of the circumstances prior to taking an adult abuse victim into protective custody. If prior notification is not practicable, deputies should contact a supervisor promptly after taking the adult into protective custody.

When adult abuse victims are under state control, have a state-appointed guardian, or there are other legal holdings for guardianship, it may be necessary or reasonable to seek a court order on behalf of the adult victim to either remove the adult from a dangerous environment (protective custody) or restrain a person from contact with the adult.

313.7 INTERVIEWS

313.7.1 PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS

Absent extenuating circumstances or impracticality, deputies should audio record the preliminary interview with a suspected adult abuse victim. Deputies should avoid multiple interviews with the victim and should attempt to gather only the information necessary to begin an investigation. When practicable, investigating deputies should defer interviews until a person who is specially trained in such interviews is available.

313.7.2 DETAINING VICTIMS FOR INTERVIEWS

A deputy should not detain an adult involuntarily who is suspected of being a victim of abuse solely for the purpose of an interview or physical exam without his/her consent or the consent of a guardian unless one of the following applies:

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- (a) Exigent circumstances exist, such as:
 - 1. A reasonable belief that medical issues of the adult need to be addressed immediately.
 - 2. A reasonable belief that the adult is or will be in danger of harm if the interview or physical exam is not immediately completed.
 - 3. The alleged offender is a family member or guardian and there is reason to believe the adult may be in continued danger.
- (b) A court order or warrant has been issued.

313.8 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

When an adult abuse investigation requires a medical examination, the investigating deputy should obtain consent for such examination from the victim, guardian, agency, or entity having legal custody of the adult. The deputy should also arrange for the adult's transportation to the appropriate medical facility.

In cases where the alleged offender is a family member, guardian, agency, or entity having legal custody and is refusing to give consent for the medical examination, deputies should notify a supervisor before proceeding. If exigent circumstances do not exist, the supervisor should consider other government agencies or services that may obtain a court order for such an examination.

313.9 DRUG-ENDANGERED VICTIMS

A coordinated response by law enforcement and social services agencies is appropriate to meet the immediate and longer-term medical and safety needs of an adult abuse victim who has been exposed to the manufacturing, trafficking or use of narcotics.

313.9.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Detective Unit supervisor should:

- (a) Work with professionals from the appropriate agencies, including DSHS, other law enforcement agencies, medical service providers and local prosecutors, to develop community-specific procedures for responding to situations where there are adult abuse victims endangered by exposure to methamphetamine labs or the manufacture and trafficking of other drugs.
- (b) Activate any available interagency response when a deputy notifies the Detective Unit supervisor that he/she has responded to a drug lab or other narcotics crime scene where an adult abuse victim is present or where evidence indicates that an adult abuse victim lives.
- (c) Develop a report format or checklist for use when deputies respond to drug labs or other narcotics crime scenes. The checklist will help deputies document the environmental, medical, social and other conditions that may affect the adult.

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313.9.2 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputies responding to a drug lab or other narcotics crime scene where an adult abuse victim is present or where there is evidence that an adult abuse victim lives should:

- (a) Document the environmental, medical, social and other conditions of the adult, using photography as appropriate and the checklist or form developed for this purpose.
- (b) Notify the Detective Unit supervisor so an interagency response can begin.

313.10 STATE MANDATES AND OTHER RELEVANT LAWS

Washington requires or permits the following:

313.10.1 ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

When a deputy has confirmed that a valid court order for protection, including a temporary order, exists and has probable cause to believe that a person has violated that order, the deputy has the authority to arrest the person without a warrant ([RCW 10.31.100](#)).

313.10.2 RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Records Section is responsible for:

- (a) Providing a copy of the adult abuse report to DSHS as required by law.
- (b) Retaining the original adult abuse report with the initial case file.

313.10.3 RELEASE OF REPORTS

Information related to incidents of adult abuse or suspected adult abuse shall be confidential and may only be disclosed pursuant to state law and the Records Maintenance and Release Policy ([RCW 74.34.035](#) (9); [RCW 74.34.095](#)).

313.10.4 PROTECTIVE ORDERS

In any situation which a deputy reasonably believes that a vulnerable adult has been abused, abandoned, or subjected to financial exploitation or neglect, or threatened with such actions, the deputy should obtain a protective order against the person alleged to have committed or threatened such abuse pursuant to [RCW 74.34.110](#) or [RCW 74.34.210](#) .

313.11 TRAINING

The Office should provide training on best practices in adult abuse investigations to members tasked with investigating these cases. The training should include:

- (a) Participating in multidisciplinary investigations, as appropriate.
- (b) Conducting interviews.
- (c) Availability of therapy services for adults and families.
- (d) Availability of specialized forensic medical exams.
- (e) Cultural competence (including interpretive services) related to adult abuse investigations.
- (f) Availability of victim advocates or other support.

Discriminatory Harassment

314.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent office members from being subjected to discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. Nothing in this policy is intended to create a legal or employment right or duty that is not created by law.

314.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to creating and maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. The Office will not tolerate discrimination against employees in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits, and other privileges of employment. The Office will take preventive and corrective action to address any behavior that violates this policy or the rights it is designed to protect.

The nondiscrimination policies of the Office may be more comprehensive than state or federal law. Conduct that violates this policy may not violate state or federal law but still could subject a member to discipline.

314.3 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

314.3.1 DISCRIMINATION

The Office prohibits all forms of discrimination, including any employment-related action by a member that adversely affects an applicant or member and is based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law.

Discriminatory harassment, including **sexual harassment**, is verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based upon that individual's protected class. It has the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating a hostile or abusive work environment.

Conduct that may, under certain circumstances, constitute discriminatory harassment can include making derogatory comments; making crude and offensive statements or remarks; making slurs or off-color jokes; stereotyping; engaging in threatening acts; making indecent gestures, pictures, cartoons, posters, or material; making inappropriate physical contact; or using written material or office equipment and/or systems to transmit or receive offensive material, statements, or pictures. Such conduct is contrary to office policy and to a work environment that is free of discrimination.

314.3.2 RETALIATION

Retaliation is treating a person differently or engaging in acts of reprisal or intimidation against the person because the person has engaged in protected activity, filed a charge of discrimination,

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participated in an investigation, or opposed a discriminatory practice. Retaliation will not be tolerated.

314.3.3 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Office prohibits all forms of discrimination and discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment. It is unlawful to harass an applicant or a member because of that person's sex.

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment, position, or compensation.
- (b) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the member.
- (c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a member's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

314.3.4 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discrimination and discriminatory harassment do not include actions that are in accordance with established rules, principles or standards, including:

- (a) Acts or omission of acts based solely upon bona fide occupational qualifications under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Washington State Human Rights Commission guidelines.
- (b) Bona fide requests or demands by a supervisor that the member improve the member's work quality or output, that the member report to the job site on time, that the member comply with County or office rules or regulations, or any other appropriate work-related communication between supervisor and member.

314.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all office members, who shall follow the intent of these guidelines in a manner that reflects office policy, professional standards, and the best interest of the Office and its mission.

Members are encouraged to promptly report any discriminatory, retaliatory, or harassing conduct or known violations of this policy to a supervisor. Any member who is not comfortable with reporting violations of this policy to the member's immediate supervisor may bypass the chain of command and make the report to a higher-ranking supervisor or manager. Complaints may also be filed with the Sheriff, the Director of Human Services, or the BOCC.

Any member who believes, in good faith, that the member has been discriminated against, harassed, or subjected to retaliation, or who has observed harassment or discrimination, is encouraged to promptly report such conduct in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy.

Supervisors and managers receiving information regarding alleged violations of this policy shall determine if there is any basis for the allegation and shall proceed with resolution as stated below.

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314.4.1 QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATION

Members with questions regarding what constitutes discrimination, sexual harassment, or retaliation are encouraged to contact a supervisor, a manager, the Sheriff, the Director of Human Services, or the BOCC for further information, direction, or clarification.

314.4.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors and managers shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) Continually monitoring the work environment and striving to ensure that it is free from all types of unlawful discrimination, including harassment or retaliation.
- (b) Taking prompt, appropriate action within their work units to avoid and minimize the incidence of any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- (c) Ensuring their subordinates understand their responsibilities under this policy.
- (d) Ensuring that members who make complaints or who oppose any unlawful employment practices are protected from retaliation and that such matters are kept confidential to the extent possible.
- (e) Making a timely determination regarding the substance of any allegation based upon all available facts.
- (f) Notifying the Sheriff or the Director of Human Services in writing of the circumstances surrounding any reported allegations or observed acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation no later than the next business day.

314.4.3 SUPERVISOR'S ROLE

Supervisors and managers shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Behavior of supervisors and managers should represent the values of the Office and professional standards.
- (b) False or mistaken accusations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation have negative effects on the careers of innocent members.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent supervisors or managers from discharging supervisory or management responsibilities, such as determining duty assignments, evaluating or counseling members, or issuing discipline in a manner that is consistent with established procedures.

314.5 INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Various methods of resolution exist. During the pendency of any such investigation, the supervisor of the involved member should take prompt and reasonable steps to mitigate or eliminate any continuing abusive or hostile work environment. It is the policy of the Office that all complaints of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment shall be fully documented, and promptly and thoroughly investigated.

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314.5.1 SUPERVISOR RESOLUTION

Members who believe they are experiencing discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should be encouraged to inform the individual that the behavior is unwelcome, offensive, unprofessional, or inappropriate. However, if the member feels uncomfortable or threatened or has difficulty expressing the member's concern, or if this does not resolve the concern, assistance should be sought from a supervisor or manager who is a rank higher than the alleged transgressor.

314.5.2 FORMAL INVESTIGATION

If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the process described above, a formal investigation will be conducted.

The member assigned to investigate the complaint will have full authority to investigate all aspects of the complaint. Investigative authority includes access to records and the cooperation of any members involved. No influence will be used to suppress any complaint and no member will be subject to retaliation or reprisal for filing a complaint, encouraging others to file a complaint, or for offering testimony or evidence in an investigation.

Formal investigation of the complaint will be confidential to the extent possible and will include but is not limited to details of the specific incident, frequency and dates of occurrences, and names of any witnesses. Witnesses will be advised regarding the prohibition against retaliation, and that a disciplinary process, up to and including termination, may result if retaliation occurs.

Members who believe they have been discriminated against, harassed, or retaliated against because of their protected status are encouraged to follow the chain of command but may also file a complaint directly with the Sheriff, the Director of Human Services, or the BOCC.

314.5.3 ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCESS

No provision of this policy shall be construed to prevent any member from seeking legal redress outside the Office. Members who believe that they have been harassed, discriminated against, or retaliated against are entitled to bring complaints of employment discrimination to federal, state, and/or local agencies responsible for investigating such allegations. Specific time limitations apply to the filing of such charges. Members are advised that proceeding with complaints under the provisions of this policy does not in any way affect those filing requirements.

314.6 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints or allegations shall be thoroughly documented on forms and in a manner designated by the Sheriff. The outcome of all reports shall be:

- (a) Approved by the Sheriff, the BOCC, or the Director of Human Services, depending on the ranks of the involved parties.
- (b) Maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

314.6.1 NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION

The complainant and/or victim will be notified in writing of the disposition of the investigation and the action taken to remedy or address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint.

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314.6 TRAINING

All new members shall be provided with a copy of this policy as part of their orientation. The policy shall be reviewed with each new member. The member shall certify by signing the prescribed form that the member has been advised of this policy, is aware of and understands its contents, and agrees to abide by its provisions during the member's term with the Office.

All members shall receive annual training on the requirements of this policy and shall certify by signing the prescribed form that they have reviewed the policy, understand its contents, and agree that they will continue to abide by its provisions.

Child Abuse

315.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the investigation of suspected child abuse. This policy also addresses when Skamania County Sheriff's Office members are required to notify the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Child Protective Services (CPS) of suspected child abuse.

315.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Abandons: means leaving a child or other dependent person without the means or ability to obtain one or more of the basic necessities of life.

Basic Necessities of Life: means food, water, shelter, clothing, and medically necessary health care, including but not limited to health-care treatment or activities, hygiene, oxygen, and medications.

Bodily Injury: means physical pain or injury, illness, or impairment of physical condition.

Child - Unless otherwise specified by a cited statute, a child is any person under the age of 18 years.

Child abuse - Any offense or attempted offense involving violence or neglect with a child victim when committed by a person responsible for the child's care or any other act that would mandate notification to a social service agency.

Dependent Person: means a person who, because of physical or mental disability, or because of extreme advanced age, is dependent upon another person to provide the basic necessities of life. A resident of a nursing home, as defined in ([RCW 18.51.010](#)), a resident of an adult family home, as defined in ([RCW 70.128.010](#)), and a frail elder or vulnerable adult, as defined in ([RCW 74.34.020](#)) (13), is presumed to be a dependent person for the purposes of this chapter.

315.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will investigate all reported incidents of alleged criminal child abuse and ensure CPS is notified as required by law. It is the responsibility of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to investigate all child fatalities, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or neglect cases.

315.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall notify CPS when a report of abuse or neglect of a child is received or when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect (RCW 26.44.030).

For purposes of notification, abuse or neglect of a child includes sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or injury inflicted by any person under circumstances that cause harm to the child's health, welfare

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or safety, excluding lawful discipline, or the negligent treatment or maltreatment by a person who is responsible for, or providing care to, a child (RCW 26.44.020).

Deputies shall promptly notify CPS whenever a child under 16 years of age is in a vehicle being driven by the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian, sibling or half-sibling and that person is being arrested for a drug or alcohol-related driving offense (RCW 46.61.507).

If, during an investigation of drug manufacturing, a deputy discovers that a child is present at the investigation site, the deputy shall notify CPS immediately (RCW 26.44.200).

315.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should occur as follows ([RCW 26.44.030\(5\)](#)):

- (a) In emergency cases, notification to CPS should be made immediately when the child's welfare is endangered but in all such cases within 24 hours.
- (b) In non-emergency cases, notification to CPS shall be made within 72 hours after a report is received.
- (c) Notification, when possible, should include ([RCW 26.44.040](#)):
 - 1. The name, address and age of the child.
 - 2. The name and address of the child's parents, stepparents, guardians or other persons having custody of the child.
 - 3. The nature and extent of the alleged injury or injuries.
 - 4. The nature and extent of the alleged neglect.
 - 5. The nature and extent of the alleged sexual abuse.
 - 6. Any evidence of previous injuries, including the nature and extent of the injury.
 - 7. Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the child's death, injury or injuries, and the identity of the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators.
- (d) The Office shall forward all case dispositions to CPS.

315.4 QUALIFIED INVESTIGATORS

Qualified investigators should be available for child abuse investigations. These investigators should:

- (a) Conduct interviews in child appropriate interview facilities.
- (b) Be familiar with forensic interview techniques specific to child abuse investigations.
- (c) Present all cases of alleged child abuse to the prosecutor for review.
- (d) Coordinate with other enforcement agencies, social service agencies and school administrators as needed.
- (e) Provide referrals to therapy services, victim advocates, guardians and support for the child and family as appropriate.

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- (f) Participate in or coordinate with multidisciplinary investigative teams as applicable (RCW 26.44.180 et seq.).

315.5 INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING

In all reported or suspected cases of child abuse, a report will be written. Deputies shall write a report even if the allegations appear unfounded or unsubstantiated.

Investigations and reports related to suspected cases of child abuse should address, as applicable:

- (a) The overall basis for the contact. This should be done by the investigating deputy in all circumstances where a suspected child abuse victim was contacted.
- (b) The exigent circumstances that existed if deputies interviewed the child victim without the presence of a parent or guardian.
- (c) Any relevant statements the child may have made and to whom he/she made the statements.
- (d) If a child was taken into protective custody, the reasons, the name and title of the person making the decision, and why other alternatives were not appropriate.
- (e) Documentation of any visible injuries or any injuries identified by the child. This should include photographs of such injuries, if practicable.
- (f) Whether the child victim was transported for medical treatment or a medical examination.
- (g) Whether the victim identified a household member as the alleged perpetrator, and a list of the names of any other children who may reside in the residence.
- (h) Identification of any prior related reports or allegations of child abuse, including other jurisdictions, as reasonably known.
- (i) Previous addresses of the victim and suspect.
- (j) Other potential witnesses who have not yet been interviewed, such as relatives or others close to the victim's environment.
- (k) Applicable local protocol regarding child abuse investigations to include contact of a Child Advocate (RCW 26.44.180).

All cases of the unexplained death of a child should be investigated as thoroughly by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office Detective Unit as if it had been a case of suspected child abuse (e.g., a sudden or unexplained death of an infant).

315.6 PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Before taking any child into protective custody, the deputy should make reasonable attempts to contact CPS. Generally, removal of a child from his/her family, guardian or other responsible adult

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should be left to the child welfare authorities when they are present or have become involved in an investigation.

Generally, members of this office should remove a child from his/her parent or guardian without a court order only when no other effective alternative is reasonably available and immediate action reasonably appears necessary to protect the child. Prior to taking a child into protective custody, the deputy should take reasonable steps to deliver the child to another qualified parent or legal guardian, unless it reasonably appears that the release would endanger the child or result in abduction. If this is not a reasonable option, the deputy shall ensure that the child is delivered to CPS.

Whenever practicable, the deputy should inform a supervisor of the circumstances prior to taking a child into protective custody. If prior notification is not practicable, deputies should contact a supervisor promptly after taking a child into protective custody.

Children may only be removed from a parent or guardian in the following situations ([RCW 26.44.050](#)):

- (a) A court order has been issued authorizing the removal of the child.
- (b) There is probable cause to believe that the child is abused or neglected and that the child would be injured or could not be taken into custody if it were necessary to first obtain a court order (e.g., the child could be taken and concealed) pursuant to ([RCW 13.34.050](#)).

315.6.1 SAFE HAVEN LAW

A parent is not guilty of abandonment when leaving a newborn 72 hours old or younger with a qualified person at the emergency department of a licensed hospital or a fire station while personnel are present ([RCW 13.34.360](#)). The qualified person shall notify CPS. CPS shall assume custody of the newborn.

315.7 INTERVIEWS

315.7.1 PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS

Absent extenuating circumstances or impracticality, deputies should record the preliminary interview with suspected child abuse victims. Deputies should avoid multiple interviews with a child victim and should attempt to gather only the information necessary to begin an investigation. When practicable, investigating deputies should defer interviews until a person who is specially trained in such interviews is available. Generally, child victims should not be interviewed in the home or location where the alleged abuse occurred.

315.7.2 DETAINING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS FOR AN INTERVIEW

A deputy should not detain a child involuntarily who is suspected of being a victim of child abuse solely for the purpose of an interview or physical exam without the consent of a parent or guardian unless one of the following applies:

- (a) Exigent circumstances exist, such as:

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1. A reasonable belief that medical issues of the child need to be addressed immediately.
 2. A reasonable belief that the child is or will be in danger of harm if the interview or physical exam is not immediately completed.
 3. The alleged offender is the custodial parent or guardian and there is reason to believe the child may be in continued danger.
- (b) A court order or warrant has been issued.

315.7.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENT

Only those members who have successfully completed Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) sponsored training on interviewing child victims of sexual abuse shall participate in or conduct such interviews. Interviews of children who are suspected victims of sexual abuse will be conducted in compliance with the training standards set forth in ([RCW 43.101.224](#)). These requirements include but are limited to Basic REID Interviewing Techniques, Harborview's Child Abuse Investigations and Interviewing or equivalent advanced training meeting standards defined in ([RCW 74.14B.010](#)). The Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall ensure their investigators are provided continuing educations in the field of investigating child fatality, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or neglect cases.

315.8 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

If the child has been the victim of abuse that requires a medical examination, the investigating deputy should obtain consent for such examination from the appropriate parent, guardian or agency having legal custody of the child. The deputy should also arrange for the child's transportation to the appropriate medical facility.

In cases where the alleged offender is the custodial parent or guardian and is refusing consent for the medical examination, deputies should notify a supervisor before proceeding. If exigent circumstances do not exist or if state law does not provide for deputies to take the child for a medical examination, the notified supervisor should consider obtaining a court order for such an examination.

315.9 DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN

A coordinated response by law enforcement and social services agencies is appropriate to meet the immediate and longer-term medical and safety needs of children exposed to the manufacturing, trafficking or use of narcotics.

315.9.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Detective Unit Supervisor should:

- (a) Work with professionals from the appropriate agencies, including CPS, other law enforcement agencies, medical service providers and local prosecutors to develop community specific procedures for responding to situations where there are children

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endangered by exposure to methamphetamine labs or the manufacture and trafficking of other drugs.

- (b) Activate any available interagency response when a deputy notifies the Detective Unit Supervisor that the deputy has responded to a drug lab or other narcotics crime scene where a child is present or where evidence indicates that a child lives there.

315.9.2 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputies responding to a drug lab or other narcotics crime scene where a child is present or where there is evidence that a child lives should:

- (a) Document the environmental, medical, social and other conditions of the child using photography as appropriate.
- (b) Notify the Detective Unit Supervisor so an interagency response can begin.

315.10 STATE MANDATES AND OTHER RELEVANT LAWS

Washington requires or permits the following:

315.10.1 RELEASE OF REPORTS

Information related to incidents of child abuse or suspected child abuse shall be confidential and may only be disclosed pursuant to state law and the Records Maintenance and Release Policy (RCW 42.56.240).

Records and information may be made available to multidisciplinary investigative team members as necessary for the performance of the member's duties as a member of the team. Records and information are subject to the same privacy and confidentiality restrictions as the person providing the information or records (RCW 26.44.175).

315.10.2 ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

When a deputy responds to a call alleging that a child has been subjected to sexual or physical abuse or criminal mistreatment and has probable cause that a crime has been committed, or the deputy responds to a call alleging that a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction has been violated, he/she has the authority to arrest the person without a warrant (RCW 10.31.100; RCW 26.44.130).

315.10.3 CASE SUBMISSION TO PROSECUTOR

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall forward all cases of child abuse to the appropriate prosecutor when a crime may have been committed and (RCW 26.44.030):

- (a) A child has died or has had a physical injury.
- (b) Injuries were inflicted upon a child other than by accidental means.
- (c) A child has been subjected to alleged sexual abuse.

315.10.4 AGENCY COORDINATION

If this office responds to a complaint of alleged child abuse and discovers that another agency has also responded to the complaint, this office shall notify the other agency of its presence.

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The agencies shall coordinate the investigation and keep each other apprised of progress (RCW 26.44.035).

315.10.5 LOCAL CHILD ABUSE PROTOCOLS

The Detective Unit Supervisor should ensure that local child abuse protocols for the investigation of child abuse are available to those office members who have a role in child abuse investigations (RCW 26.44.180 et seq.).

315.10.6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN INVESTIGATIONS

A deputy shall not participate as an investigator in a child abuse case concerning a child for whom he/she is, or has been, a parent, guardian or foster parent (RCW 26.44.190).

315.10.7 POSTING OF MANDATED REPORTER REQUIREMENTS

The Shift Sergeant shall ensure that the Department of Children, Youth, and Families poster regarding mandated reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect is posted in a member common area (RCW 26.44.030).

315.11 TRAINING

The Office should provide training on best practices in child abuse investigations to members tasked with investigating these cases. The training should include:

- (a) Participating in multidisciplinary investigations, as appropriate.
- (b) Conducting forensic interviews.
- (c) Availability of therapy services for children and families.
- (d) Availability of specialized forensic medical exams.
- (e) Cultural competence (including interpretive services) related to child abuse investigations.
- (f) Availability of victim advocate or guardian ad litem support.
- (g) Recognizing abuse that requires mandatory notification to another agency.

Missing Persons

316.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for handling missing person investigations.

316.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

At risk - This includes persons who:

- (a) Are 13 years of age or younger.
- (b) Regardless of age, are believed or determined to be experiencing one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 1. Missing under unexplained, involuntary or suspicious circumstances and is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, in combination with environmental or weather conditions, or it is believed that the person is unable to return to safety without assistance.
 - 2. Out of the zone of safety for his/her chronological age and developmental stage.
 - 3. Mentally or behaviorally disabled.
 - 4. Drug dependent, including prescribed medication and/or illegal substances, and the dependency is potentially life-threatening.
 - 5. Absent from home for more than 24 hours before being reported to law enforcement as missing.
 - 6. In a life-threatening situation.
 - 7. In the company of others who could endanger his/her welfare.
 - 8. Absent in a way that is inconsistent with established patterns of behavior and cannot be readily explained. Most children have an established and reasonably predictable routine.
 - 9. Involved in a situation that would cause a reasonable person to conclude the person should be considered at risk.

Missing person - Any person who is reported missing to law enforcement when that person's location is unknown.

Missing person networks - Databases or computer networks that are available to law enforcement and are suitable for obtaining information related to missing person investigations. This includes the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC).

316.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office does not consider any report of a missing person to be routine and assumes that the missing person is in need of immediate assistance until an investigation reveals otherwise. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office gives missing person cases

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priority over property-related cases and does not require a specific amount of time to have passed before beginning a missing person investigation.

316.3 REQUIRED FORMS AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION KITS

The Detective Unit supervisor shall ensure the following forms and kits are developed and available:

- Missing person report form
- Missing person investigation checklist that provides investigation guidelines and resources that could be helpful in the early hours of a missing person investigation (RCW 43.43.876)
- Missing person school notification form
- Medical records release form
- Biological sample collection kits

316.4 ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Any member encountering a person who wishes to report a missing person or runaway shall render assistance without delay. This can be accomplished by accepting the report via telephone or in-person and initiating the investigation. Those members who do not take such reports or who are unable to give immediate assistance shall promptly dispatch or alert a member who can take the report.

A report shall be accepted in all cases and regardless of where the person was last seen, where the person resides or any question of jurisdiction.

316.5 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

Deputies or other members conducting the initial investigation of a missing person should take the following investigative actions, as applicable:

- (a) Respond to a dispatched call as soon as practicable.
- (b) Interview the reporting party and any witnesses to determine whether the person qualifies as a missing person and, if so, whether the person may be at risk.
- (c) Notify a supervisor immediately if there is evidence that a missing person is either at risk or may qualify for a public alert, or both (see the Public Alerts Policy).
- (d) Broadcast a "Be on the Look-Out" (BOLO) bulletin if the person is under 16 years of age or there is evidence that the missing person is at risk. The BOLO should be broadcast as soon as practicable but in no event more than one hour after determining the missing person is under 16 years of age or may be at risk.
- (e) Ensure that entries are made into the appropriate missing person networks, as follows:
 1. Immediately, when the missing person is at risk.

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2. In all other cases, as soon as practicable, but not later than two hours from the time of the initial report.
- (f) Complete the appropriate report forms accurately and completely and initiate a search as applicable under the facts.
- (g) Collect and/or review:
 1. A photograph and fingerprint card of the missing person, if available.
 2. A voluntarily provided biological sample of the missing person, if available (e.g., toothbrush, hairbrush).
 3. Any documents that may assist in the investigation, such as court orders regarding custody.
 4. Any other evidence that may assist in the investigation, including personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, computers).
- (h) When circumstances permit and if appropriate, attempt to determine the missing person's location through his/her telecommunications carrier (RCW 80.36.570).
 1. Information may only be sought from a carrier in an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or serious physical harm.
 2. Members shall check NCIC and other available databases for a history of domestic violence or court order restricting contact and verify through the Washington State Patrol (WSP) that the missing person is not participating in the address confidentiality program under RCW 40.24.030 et seq. Information obtained from NCIC, other databases, or WSP shall not be released except by court order.
 3. Information received from a carrier is restricted and should only be released to first responders responding to the emergency situation.
- (i) Contact the appropriate agency if the report relates to a missing person report previously made to another agency and that agency is actively investigating the report. When this is not practicable, the information should be documented in an appropriate report for transmission to the appropriate agency. If the information relates to an at-risk missing person, the member should notify a supervisor and proceed with reasonable steps to locate the missing person.
- (j) Consider contacting the WSP Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force (MECTF) if additional resources are needed (RCW 13.60.110).

316.6 REPORT PROCEDURES AND ROUTING

Members should complete all missing person reports and forms promptly and advise the appropriate supervisor as soon as a missing person report is ready for review.

316.6.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the supervisor shall include, but are not be limited to:

- (a) Reviewing and approving missing person reports upon receipt.

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1. The reports should be promptly sent to the Records Section.
 - (b) Ensuring resources are deployed as appropriate.
 - (c) Initiating a command post as needed.
 - (d) Ensuring applicable notifications and public alerts are made and documented.
 - (e) Ensuring that records have been entered into the appropriate missing persons networks.
 - (f) Taking reasonable steps to identify and address any jurisdictional issues to ensure cooperation among agencies.
1. If the case falls within the jurisdiction of another agency, the supervisor should facilitate transfer of the case to the agency of jurisdiction.

316.6.2 RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Records Section receiving member shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) As soon as reasonable under the circumstances, notifying and forwarding a copy of the report to the agency of jurisdiction for the missing person's residence in cases where the missing person is a resident of another jurisdiction.
- (b) Notifying and forwarding a copy of the report to the agency of jurisdiction where the missing person was last seen.
- (c) Notifying and forwarding a copy of the report to the agency of jurisdiction for the missing person's intended or possible destination, if known.
- (d) Forwarding a copy of the report to the Detective Unit.
- (e) Coordinating with the NCIC Terminal Contractor for Washington to have the missing person record in the NCIC computer networks updated with additional information obtained from missing person investigations (34 USC § 41308).

316.7 DETECTIVE UNIT FOLLOW-UP

In addition to completing or continuing any actions listed above, the investigator assigned to a missing person investigation:

- (a) Should ensure that the missing person's school is notified within 10 days if the missing person is a juvenile.
 1. The notice shall be in writing and should also include a photograph.
 2. The investigator should meet with school officials as appropriate to stress the importance of including the notice in the child's student file, along with the investigator's contact information, if the school receives a call requesting the transfer of the missing child's files to another school.
- (b) Should recontact the reporting person and/or other witnesses within 30 days of the initial report and within 30 days thereafter to keep them informed, as appropriate, and to determine if any additional information has become available.

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- (c) Should consider contacting other agencies involved in the case to determine if any additional information is available.
- (d) Shall verify and update WACIC, NCIC, and any other applicable missing person networks within 30 days of the original entry into the networks and every 30 days thereafter until the missing person is located (34 USC § 41308).
- (e) Should continue to make reasonable efforts to locate the missing person and document these efforts at least every 30 days.
- (f) Shall maintain a close liaison with state and local child welfare systems and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) if the missing person is under the age of 21 and shall promptly notify NCMEC when the person is missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution (34 USC § 41308).
- (g) Should make appropriate inquiry with the Coroner.
- (h) Should obtain and forward medical and dental records, photos, X-rays, and biological samples, as applicable.
- (i) Shall attempt to obtain the most recent photograph for persons under 18 years of age if it has not been obtained previously and forward the photograph to the WSP Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit (MUPU) and enter the photograph into applicable missing person networks (34 USC § 41308).
- (j) Should consider making appropriate entries and searches in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).
- (k) In the case of an at-risk missing person or a person who has been missing for an extended time, should consult with a supervisor regarding seeking federal assistance from the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service (28 USC § 566).

316.7.1 MISSING OVER 30 DAYS OR WHEN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY SUSPECTED

When a person reported missing has not been found within 30 days of the report or at any time when criminal activity is suspected, the handling detective shall contact the county coroner or medical examiner to determine if that office has any information concerning the missing person. If, after conferring with the coroner or medical examiner, the person is still determined to be missing, the handling detective/deputy shall:

- (a) File a missing person's report with MUPU.
- (b) Initiate the collection of biological samples from the known missing person and his/her family members for nuclear and mitochondrial DNA testing along with the necessary consent forms, if not previously obtained during the investigation.
- (c) Ask the missing person's family or next of kin to give written consent to request the person's dental records.
 - 1. Whenever possible, obtain diagnostic quality copies or original records of the missing person's dental records. As soon as possible, biological samples shall be submitted to the appropriate lab; dental records shall be submitted to MUPU (RCW 43.43.751; RCW 68.50.320).

Missing Persons

In all missing person cases, the assigned detective should attempt contact with the reporting party no less than every 30 days in order to verify the status of the reported missing person. After 12 months, contact with the reporting party should be attempted yearly. All verifications should be reported to WSP via A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS).

316.8 WHEN A MISSING PERSON IS FOUND

When any person reported missing is found, the assigned investigator shall document the location of the missing person in the appropriate report, notify the relatives and/or reporting party, as appropriate, and other involved agencies, and refer the case for additional investigation if warranted.

The Chief Civil Deputy should ensure that, upon receipt of information that a missing person has been located, the following occurs:

- (a) Notification is made to MUPU.
- (b) A missing child's school is notified.
- (c) Entries are made in the applicable missing person networks.
- (d) When a person is at risk, the fact that the person has been found should be reported within 24 hours to MUPU.
- (e) Notification shall be made to any other law enforcement agency that took the initial report or participated in the investigation.

316.8.1 UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

Office members investigating a case of an unidentified person who is deceased or a living person who cannot assist in identifying him/herself should:

- (a) Obtain a complete description of the person.
- (b) Enter the unidentified person's description into the NCIC Unidentified Person File.
- (c) Use available resources, such as those related to missing persons, to identify the person.

316.9 CASE CLOSURE

The Detective Unit Supervisor may authorize the closure of a missing person case after considering the following:

- (a) Closure is appropriate when the missing person is confirmed returned or evidence matches an unidentified person or body.
- (b) If the missing person is a resident of Skamania or this office is the lead agency, the case should be kept under active investigation for as long as the person may still be alive. Exhaustion of leads in the investigation should not be a reason for closing a case.

Missing Persons

- (c) If this office is not the lead agency, the case can be made inactive if all investigative leads have been exhausted, the lead agency has been notified and entries are made in the applicable missing person networks, as appropriate.
- (d) A missing person case should not be closed or reclassified because the person would have reached a certain age or adulthood or because the person is now the subject of a criminal or civil warrant.

316.10 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Training Manager should ensure that members of this office whose duties include missing person investigations and reports receive training that includes:

- (a) The initial investigation:
 - 1. Assessments and interviews
 - 2. Use of current resources, such as Mobile Audio Video (MAV)
 - 3. Confirming missing status and custody status of minors
 - 4. Evaluating the need for a heightened response
 - 5. Identifying the zone of safety based on chronological age and developmental stage
- (b) Briefing of office members at the scene.
- (c) Identifying NCIC Missing Person File categories (e.g., disability, endangered, involuntary, juvenile and catastrophe).
- (d) Verifying the accuracy of all descriptive information.
- (e) Initiating a neighborhood investigation.
- (f) Investigating any relevant recent family dynamics.
- (g) Addressing conflicting information.
- (h) Key investigative and coordination steps.
- (i) Managing a missing person case.
- (j) Additional resources and specialized services.
- (k) Update procedures for case information and descriptions.
- (l) Preserving scenes.
- (m) Internet and technology issues (e.g., Internet use, cell phone use).
- (n) Media relations.

Public Alerts

317.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for alerting the public to important information and soliciting public aid when appropriate.

317.2 POLICY

Public alerts may be employed using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio, television and press organizations and other groups to notify the public of incidents, or enlist the aid of the public, when the exchange of information may enhance the safety of the community. Various types of alerts may be available based upon each situation and the alert system's individual criteria.

317.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

317.3.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office should notify their supervisor, Shift Sergeant or Detective Unit Supervisor as soon as practicable upon learning of a situation where public notification, a warning or enlisting the help of the media and public could assist in locating a missing person, apprehending a dangerous person or gathering information.

317.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor apprised of the need for a public alert is responsible to make the appropriate notifications based upon the circumstances of each situation. The supervisor shall promptly notify the Sheriff, and the appropriate Division Chief when any public alert is generated.

The supervisor in charge of the investigation to which the alert relates is responsible for the following:

- (a) Updating alerts
- (b) Canceling alerts
- (c) Ensuring all appropriate reports are completed
- (d) Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Division Chief

317.3.3 PUBLIC ALERT REPORTING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sheriff should designate a public alert reporting officer, who is responsible for:

- (a) Remaining familiar with the protocols for activating, maintaining and cancelling all applicable public alerts.
- (b) Being the point of contact with the Washington AMBER Alert Advisory Committee.
- (c) Ensuring the Office has members who have completed the appropriate training.

Public Alerts

317.4 WASHINGTON STATEWIDE AMBER ALERT™ PLAN

The AMBER Alert™ Plan is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement, state government agencies, broadcasters and other participants to rapidly disseminate information to enhance the public's ability to assist in recovering abducted children ([RCW 13.60.010](#)).

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office participates in this partnership and may initiate an AMBER Alert to disseminate information to the public when the criteria for an AMBER Alert are met.

317.4.1 ALERT CRITERIA

The following criteria must exist prior to requesting an AMBER Alert:

- (a) The child is under 18 years of age and is known to have been abducted. The child is not a runaway or a throw-away child.
- (b) The abducted child is believed to be in danger of death or serious bodily injury.
- (c) The AMBER Alert activation should occur within four hours of the qualifying event unless circumstances or the timeliness of the information warrant otherwise.
- (d) There must be enough descriptive information to believe that an AMBER Alert activation will assist in the recovery of the child, including:
 - 1. Where the abduction took place.
 - 2. A physical description of the child: height, weight, age, hair color and length, eye color, clothing worn when the child was last seen, and any distinguishing physical characteristics.
 - 3. A physical description of the abductor: height, weight, age, hair color and length, eye color, clothing worn when the suspect last seen, and any distinguishing physical characteristics.
 - 4. Place last seen.
 - 5. Description of the vehicle: color, make, model, license number, approximate year.
- (e) The incident must be reported to and investigated by a law enforcement agency.

317.4.2 PROCEDURE

Should the Shift Sergeant or supervisor determine that the incident meets the criteria of the Washington Statewide AMBER Alert Plan, the Shift Sergeant or supervisor should:

- (a) Ensure that office protocol is followed regarding approval of the alert.
- (b) Ensure all appropriate documentation is completed.
- (c) Contact the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Communication Center for entry into the Law Enforcement Alerting Portal (LEAP).

[See attachment: Alert Data Entry Form 2020 \(1\).pdf](#)

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317.4.3 INITIAL NOTIFICATIONS

Upon initiation of an AMBER Alert, the Shift Sergeant or supervisor shall:

- (a) Ensure prompt entry of information into the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases.
- (b) Promptly notify the Sheriff and the appropriate Division Chief of any AMBER Alert activation.
- (c) Ensure the preparation of an initial press release that includes all the information required by the Washington Statewide AMBER Alert Plan, and any other available information that might aid in locating the child, such as:
 - 1. A photograph.
 - 2. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, etc., if known.
 - 3. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized point of contact to handle media and law enforcement liaison.
 - 4. A telephone number and point of contact for the public to call with leads or information.

317.4.4 POST-INCIDENT REPORTING

The Sheriff shall be responsible for submitting the AMBER Alert Report to the Washington State Police Chiefs (WASPC) in a timely fashion. The Sheriff or the authorized designee shall be responsible for representing the Office during the AMBER Alert Review Committee's after-action review of the alert.

317.5 ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON ADVISORY

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement, other government agencies, and local broadcasters to rapidly disseminate information to law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public about a missing and endangered person in circumstances that do not qualify for an AMBER Alert ([RCW 13.60.050](#)).

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office participates in this partnership and may initiate the required notifications whenever a person is reported missing from this jurisdiction and meets the criteria of an Endangered Missing Person.

An endangered missing person advisory may be termed a (RCW 13.60.010):

- (a) "Silver alert" when initiated to assist in the recovery of a missing endangered person age 60 or older.
- (b) "Missing indigenous person alert" to assist in the recovery of a missing indigenous person.

317.5.1 ADVISORY CRITERIA

All of the following criteria must exist prior to initiating an Endangered Missing Person Advisory:

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- (a) The person is missing under unexplained, involuntary or suspicious circumstances.
- (b) The person has a developmental disability, is a vulnerable adult or is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, in combination with environmental or weather conditions, or is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance. This also includes a person diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease or other age-related dementia ([RCW 13.60.010](#)).
- (c) There is enough information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person (e.g., photo or description, clothing worn when last seen, vehicle, location last seen).
- (d) The incident has been reported to and investigated by a law enforcement agency.

317.5.2 PROCEDURE

Should the Shift Sergeant or supervisor determine that the incident meets the criteria of an Endangered Missing Person Advisory, the Shift Sergeant or supervisor should:

- (a) Ensure that office protocol is followed regarding approval of the alert.
- (b) Ensure all appropriate documentation is completed.
- (c) Contact the WSP Communication Center for entry into LEAP.
- (d) Direct Records Section personnel to enter the information into the WACIC and NCIC databases using the proper message key: Missing (MNP), Endangered (EME), or Involuntary (EMI).
- (e) Notify Dispatch of the advisory and ensure that it is prepared to handle a high volume of telephone calls.
- (f) Ensure that the handling deputy attempts to obtain a photograph of the missing person and/or suspect as soon as possible.
- (g) Direct the Records Section to enter the photograph into WACIC and NCIC, then send an email to the WSP Missing Persons Unit (MPU).
- (h) Appoint a Public Information Officer to handle the media.
 - 1. The Public Information Officer should notify the media through appropriate channels regarding the Endangered Person Advisory. Upon request, the WSP MPU can provide electronic posters with details of the missing person.
 - 2. If the Endangered Missing Person is 21 years of age or younger, NCMEC should be notified as soon as practicable.
- (i) The Records Section personnel should promptly cancel the advisory after an Endangered Missing Person is located by sending an administrative message through A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS), noting that the person has been found.

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317.6 BLUE ALERTS

The Blue Alert system is a voluntary cooperation between law enforcement, state government agencies and local broadcasters to enhance the public's ability to assist in locating and apprehending persons suspected of killing or seriously injuring a law enforcement officer ([RCW 10.108.030](#)).

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office participates in this partnership and may initiate a Blue Alert to disseminate information to the public when the criteria for a Blue Alert are met.

317.6.1 CRITERIA

All of the following criteria are required to exist prior to initiating a Blue Alert ([RCW 10.108.030](#)):

- (a) The suspect has not been apprehended.
- (b) The suspect poses a serious threat to the public.
- (c) Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public to assist in locating and apprehending the suspect.
- (d) The release of the information will not compromise the investigation.
- (e) The release of the information will not improperly notify a deputy's next of kin.

317.6.2 PROCEDURE

Should the Shift Sergeant or supervisor determine that the incident meets the criteria of a Blue Alert, the Shift Sergeant or supervisor should:

- (a) Direct Records Section personnel to prepare a Blue Alert administrative message through ACCESS. The words, "Blue Alert Advisory" should be included in the title of the message.
- (b) Contact WSP Communications to verify that the advisory was received and, if available, provide the suspect's vehicle information and request the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to activate variable message signs.
- (c) Ensure that descriptive information about the suspect, the suspect's whereabouts and the suspect's method of escape is disseminated.
- (d) Appoint a Public Information Officer to issue press releases and handle media inquiries.
 - 1. The Public Information Officer should be updated continually and be in constant contact with all media outlets to obtain maximum media exposure, provide updates and cancel the Blue Alert when appropriate.
- (e) Advise Dispatch of the Blue Alert and ensure that it is prepared to handle a high volume of telephone calls.
- (f) Ensure that a press release is issued cancelling the Blue Alert.

Public Alerts

317.7 OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

The Shift Sergeant or supervisor should consider the following resources, as appropriate:

- (a) Local allied law enforcement agency resources
- (b) FBI local office
- (c) The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
 - 1. Monitor the Cyber Tipline® link and post missing children alerts
- (d) The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - 1. Will relay AMBER Alerts over Weather Radio

Victim Witness Assistance

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that crime victims and witnesses receive appropriate assistance, that they are provided with information from government and private resources, and that the agency meets all related legal mandates.

318.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing guidance and assistance to the victims and witnesses of crime. The employees of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office will show compassion and understanding for victims and witnesses and will make reasonable efforts to provide the support and information identified in this policy.

318.3 CRIME VICTIM LIAISON

The Sheriff may appoint a member of the Office to serve as the crime victim liaison. The crime victim liaison will be the point of contact for individuals requiring further assistance or information from the Skamania County Sheriff's Office regarding benefits from crime victim resources. This person shall also be responsible for maintaining compliance with all legal mandates related to crime victims and/or witnesses.

318.3.1 SPECIFIC VICTIM LIAISON DUTIES

The crime victim liaison should:

- (a) Ensure that the Office affords victims and witnesses their appropriate rights (RCW 7.69.030; RCW 7.69B.020; RCW 70.125.110).
- (b) Ensure that child victims and witnesses are provided appropriate services and rights (RCW 7.69A.030).
- (c) Coordinate with the County Prosecutor's Office to ensure that all other required notifications are provided to victims and witnesses.

318.4 CRIME VICTIMS

Deputies should provide all victims with the applicable victim information handouts.

Deputies should never guarantee a victim's safety from future harm but may make practical safety suggestions to victims who express fear of future harm or retaliation. Deputies should never guarantee that a person qualifies as a victim for the purpose of compensation or restitution but may direct him/her to the proper written office material or available victim resources.

318.4.1 RIGHT OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Victims have the right to immediate medical assistance and should not be detained for an unreasonable length of time before having such assistance administered. The deputy may accompany the victim to a medical facility to question the victim about the criminal incident if the questioning does not hinder the administration of medical assistance (RCW 7.69.030).

Victim Witness Assistance

318.5 VICTIM INFORMATION

The Administration Division Chief shall ensure that victim information handouts are available and current. These should include as appropriate:

- (a) Shelters and other community resources for victims including domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
- (b) Assurance that sexual assault victims will not incur out-of-pocket expenses for forensic medical exams, and information about evidence collection, storage, and preservation in sexual assault cases (34 USC § 10449; 34 USC § 20109; RCW 70.125.110).
- (c) An advisement that a person who was arrested may be released on bond or some other form of release and that the victim should not rely upon an arrest as a guarantee of safety.
- (d) A clear explanation of relevant court orders and how they can be obtained to include information on the removal of weapons from his or her residence/domicile.
- (e) Information regarding available compensation for qualifying victims of crime.
- (f) VINE® information (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), including the telephone number and whether this free service is available to allow victims to check on an offender's custody status and to register for automatic notification when a person is released from jail.
- (g) Notice regarding U-Visa and T-Visa application processes.
- (h) Resources available for victims of identity theft.
- (i) A place for the deputy's name, badge number, and any applicable case or incident number.
- (j) A written statement enumerating the rights of victims (RCW 7.69.030; RCW 7.69A.030; RCW 7.69B.020).
- (k) The name, address, and telephone number of the local victim/witness program, or contact information for the Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates.
- (l) An advisement notifying victims of domestic violence of their right to personally initiate a criminal proceeding when a deputy does not exercise arrest powers or initiate criminal proceedings by citation (RCW 10.99.030).
- (m) Information about the address confidentiality program (RCW 40.24.030).

318.6 WITNESSES

Deputies should never guarantee a witness' safety from future harm or that his/her identity will always remain confidential. Deputies may make practical safety suggestions to witnesses who express fear of future harm or retaliation.

Deputies should investigate allegations of witness intimidation and take enforcement action when lawful and reasonable.

Victim Witness Assistance

318.7 WITNESS INFORMATION

Any person who has been or expects to be summoned to testify for the prosecution in a criminal action, or who is subject to call or is likely to be called as a witness, has rights to specific information about the case (RCW 7.69.030).

The Administration Division Chief shall ensure that witness information handouts are available and current. These should include information regarding witness rights (RCW 7.69.030).

Hate Crimes

319.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This office recognizes and places a high priority on the rights of all individuals guaranteed under the Constitution and the laws of this state. When such rights are infringed upon by violence, threats or other harassment, this office will utilize all available resources to see that justice is served under the law. This policy has been developed to provide members of this office with guidelines for identifying and investigating incidents and crimes that may be motivated by hatred or other bias.

319.2 DEFINITIONS

Except where otherwise noted, the following definitions are provided per RCW 9A.04.110:

Bodily injury, physical injury, or bodily harm - Physical pain or injury, illness, or an impairment of physical condition.

Gender expression or identity - Having, or being perceived as having, a gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression, whether or not that gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to that person at birth (RCW 9A.36.080).

Malice and maliciously - To import an evil intent, wish, or design to vex, annoy, or injure another person. Malice may be inferred from an act done in willful disregard of the rights of another, or an act wrongfully done without just cause or excuse, or an act or omission of duty betraying a willful disregard of social duty.

Reasonable person - A reasonable person who is a member of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation, or who has the same gender expression or identity, or the same mental, physical, or sensory disability as the victim (RCW 9A.36.080).

Sexual orientation - Heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality (RCW 9A.36.080).

Threat - To communicate, directly or indirectly, the intent to cause bodily injury immediately or in the future to any other person or to cause physical damage immediately or in the future to the property of another person.

319.3 CRIMINAL STATUTES

319.3.1 HATE CRIME OFFENSES

A person is guilty of a hate crime offense if he/she maliciously and intentionally commits one of the following acts because of his/her perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or mental, physical, or sensory disability (RCW 9A.36.080):

- (a) Causes physical injury to the victim or another person.
- (b) Causes physical damage to or destruction of the property of the victim or another person.

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- (c) Threatens a specific person or group of persons and places that person, or members of the specific group of persons, in reasonable fear of harm to person or property. The fear must be a fear that a reasonable person would have under the circumstances. For purposes of the section, a "reasonable person" is a reasonable person who is a member of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation, or who has the same gender expression or identity, or the same mental, physical, or sensory disability as the victim.

Prima facie acts of hate are described in RCW 9A.36.080(2).

319.3.2 FEDERAL JURISDICTION

The federal government has the power to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence by giving the U.S. Department of Justice jurisdiction over crimes of violence where the perpetrator has selected the victim because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability (18 USC § 245).

319.3.2 THREATS TO BOMB OR INJURE PROPERTY

It is unlawful for any person to threaten to bomb or otherwise injure any public or private school building, any place of worship or public assembly, any governmental property, or any other building, common carrier, or structure, or any place used for human occupancy; or to communicate or repeat any information concerning such a threatened bombing or injury, knowing such information to be false and with intent to alarm the person or persons to whom the information is communicated or repeated (RCW 9.61.160).

319.4 CIVIL STATUTES

In addition to the criminal penalty provided in RCW 9A.36.080 for committing a hate crime offense, the victim may bring a civil cause of action for the hate crime offense against the person who committed the offense. A person may be liable to the victim of the hate crime offense for actual damages, punitive damages of up to one hundred thousand dollars, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing the action (RCW 9A.36.083).

319.5 PREVENTING AND PREPARING FOR LIKELY HATE CRIMES

While it is recognized that not all crime can be prevented, this office is committed to taking a proactive approach to preventing and preparing for likely hate crimes by:

- (a) Making an affirmative effort to establish contact with persons and groups within the community who are likely targets of hate crimes to form and cooperate with prevention and response networks.
- (b) Providing victim assistance and follow-up as outlined below, including community follow-up.
- (c) Educating community and civic groups about hate crime laws.

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319.6 PROCEDURE FOR INVESTIGATING HATE CRIMES

Whenever any member of this office receives a report of a suspected hate crime or other activity that reasonably appears to involve a potential hate crime, the following should occur:

- (a) Deputy(s) will be promptly assigned to contact the victim, witness, or reporting party to investigate the matter further as circumstances may dictate.
- (b) A supervisor should be notified of the circumstances as soon as practical.
- (c) Once “in progress” aspects of any such situation have been stabilized (e.g., treatment of victims, apprehension of present suspects, etc.), the assigned deputy(s) will take all reasonable steps to preserve available evidence that may tend to establish that a hate crime was involved.
- (d) The assigned deputy(s) will interview available witnesses, victims and others to determine what circumstances, if any, indicate that the situation may involve a hate crime.
- (e) Depending on the situation, the assigned deputy(s) or supervisor may request additional assistance from detectives or other resources to further the investigation.
- (f) The assigned deputy(s) will include all available evidence indicating the likelihood of a hate crime in the relevant report(s). All related reports will be clearly marked as “Hate Crimes” and, absent prior approval of a supervisor, will be completed and submitted by the assigned deputy(s) before the end of the shift.
- (g) The assigned deputy(s) will provide the victim(s) of any suspected hate crime with a brochure on hate crimes. Such brochures will also be available to members of the general public upon request. The assigned deputy(s) should also make reasonable efforts to assist the victim(s) by providing available information on local assistance programs and organizations.
- (h) The assigned deputy(s) and supervisor should take reasonable steps to ensure that any such situation does not escalate further.

319.6.1 DETECTIVE UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

If a case is assigned to the Detective Unit, the assigned detective will be responsible for following up on the reported hate crime as follows:

- (a) Coordinate further investigation with the County Prosecutor and other appropriate law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.
- (b) Maintain contact with the victim(s) and other involved individuals as needed.
- (c) Maintain statistical data on suspected hate crimes and tracking as indicated and report such data to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) (RCW 36.28A.030).

Hate Crimes

319.7 TRAINING

All members of this office will receive CJTC approved training on hate crime recognition and investigation (RCW 43.101.290).

Standards of Conduct

320.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes standards of conduct that are consistent with the values and mission of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office and are expected of all office members. The standards contained in this policy are not intended to be an exhaustive list of requirements and prohibitions but they do identify many of the important matters concerning conduct. In addition to the provisions of this policy, members are subject to all other provisions contained in this manual, as well as any additional guidance on conduct that may be disseminated by this office or a member's supervisors.

320.2 POLICY

The continued employment or appointment of every member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall be based on conduct that reasonably conforms to the guidelines set forth herein. Failure to meet the guidelines set forth in this policy, whether on- or off-duty, may be cause for disciplinary action.

320.3 DIRECTIVES AND ORDERS

Members shall comply with lawful directives and orders from any office supervisor or person in a position of authority, absent a reasonable and bona fide justification.

320.3.1 UNLAWFUL OR CONFLICTING ORDERS

Supervisors shall not knowingly issue orders or directives that, if carried out, would result in a violation of any law or office policy. Supervisors should not issue orders that conflict with any previous order without making reasonable clarification that the new order is intended to countermand the earlier order.

No member is required to obey any order that appears to be in direct conflict with any federal law, state law or local ordinance. Following a known unlawful order is not a defense and does not relieve the member from criminal or civil prosecution or administrative discipline. If the legality of an order is in doubt, the affected member shall ask the issuing supervisor to clarify the order or shall confer with a higher authority. The responsibility for refusal to obey rests with the member, who shall subsequently be required to justify the refusal.

Unless it would jeopardize the safety of any individual, members who are presented with a lawful order that is in conflict with a previous lawful order, office policy or other directive shall respectfully inform the issuing supervisor of the conflict. The issuing supervisor is responsible for either resolving the conflict or clarifying that the lawful order is intended to countermand the previous lawful order or directive, in which case the member is obliged to comply. Members who are compelled to follow a conflicting lawful order after having given the issuing supervisor the opportunity to correct the conflict, will not be held accountable for disobedience of the lawful order or directive that was initially issued.

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The person countermanding the original order shall notify, in writing, the person issuing the original order, indicating the action taken and the reason.

320.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors and managers are required to follow all policies and procedures and may be subject to discipline for:

- (a) Failure to be reasonably aware of the performance of their subordinates or to provide appropriate guidance and control.
- (b) Failure to promptly and fully report any known misconduct of a member to his/her immediate supervisor or to document such misconduct appropriately or as required by policy.
- (c) Directing a subordinate to violate a policy or directive, acquiesce to such a violation, or are indifferent to any such violation by a subordinate.
- (d) The unequal or disparate exercise of authority on the part of a supervisor toward any member for malicious or other improper purpose.
- (e) The contrasting and unequal exercise of authority on the part of a supervisor towards any member based on their gender, race, or sexual orientation.

320.4 GENERAL STANDARDS

Members shall conduct themselves, whether on- or off-duty, in accordance with the United States and Washington constitutions and all applicable laws, ordinances, and rules enacted or established pursuant to legal authority.

Members shall familiarize themselves with policies and procedures and are responsible for compliance with each. Members should seek clarification and guidance from supervisors in the event of any perceived ambiguity or uncertainty.

Discipline may be initiated for any good cause. It is not mandatory that a specific policy or rule violation be cited to sustain discipline. This policy is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct.

320.5 CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE

The following are illustrative of causes for disciplinary action. This list is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct and does not preclude the recommendation of disciplinary action for violation of other rules, standards, ethics and specific action or inaction that is detrimental to efficient office service.

320.5.1 LAWS, RULES AND ORDERS

- (a) Violation of, or ordering or instructing a subordinate to violate any policy, procedure, rule, order, directive, requirement or failure to follow instructions contained in office or County manuals.
- (b) Disobedience of any legal directive or order issued by any office member of a higher rank.

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- (c) Violation of federal, state, local or administrative laws, rules or regulations.

320.5.2 ETHICS

- (a) Using or disclosing one's status as a member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office in any way that could reasonably be perceived as an attempt to gain influence or authority for non-office business or activity.
- (b) The wrongful or unlawful exercise of authority on the part of any member for malicious purpose, personal gain, willful deceit or any other improper purpose.
- (c) The receipt or acceptance of a reward, fee or gift from any person for service incident to the performance of the member's duties (lawful subpoena fees and authorized work permits excepted).
- (d) Acceptance of fees, gifts or money contrary to the rules of this office and/or laws of the state.
- (e) Offer or acceptance of a bribe or gratuity.
- (f) Misappropriation or misuse of public funds, property, personnel or services.
- (g) Any other failure to abide by the standards of ethical conduct.

320.5.3 DISCRIMINATION, OPPRESSION, OR FAVORITISM

Unless required by law or policy, discriminating against, oppressing, or providing favoritism to any person because of actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, economic status, cultural group, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law, or intentionally denying or impeding another in the exercise or enjoyment of any right, privilege, power, or immunity, knowing the conduct is unlawful.

320.5.4 RELATIONSHIPS

- (a) Unwelcome solicitation of a personal or sexual relationship while on-duty or through the use of one's official capacity.
- (b) Engaging in on-duty sexual activity including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, excessive displays of public affection or other sexual contact.
- (c) Establishing or maintaining an inappropriate personal or financial relationship, as a result of an investigation, with a known victim, witness, suspect or defendant while a case is being investigated or prosecuted, or as a direct result of any official contact.
- (d) Associating with or joining a criminal gang, organized crime and/or criminal syndicate when the member knows or reasonably should know of the criminal nature of the organization. This includes any organization involved in a definable criminal activity or enterprise, except as specifically directed and authorized by this office.
- (e) Associating on a personal, rather than official basis with persons who demonstrate recurring involvement in serious violations of state or federal laws after the member knows, or reasonably should know of such criminal activities, except as specifically directed and authorized by this office.

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320.5.5 ATTENDANCE

- (a) Leaving the job to which the member is assigned during duty hours without reasonable excuse and proper permission and approval.
- (b) Unexcused or unauthorized absence or tardiness.
- (c) Excessive absenteeism or abuse of leave privileges.
- (d) Failure to report to work or to the place of assignment at the time specified and fully prepared to perform duties without reasonable excuse.

320.5.6 UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS, DISCLOSURE, OR USE

- (a) Unauthorized and inappropriate intentional release of confidential or protected information, materials, data, forms, or reports obtained as a result of the member's position with this office.
- (b) Disclosing to any unauthorized person any active investigation information.
- (c) The use of any information, photograph, video, or other recording obtained or accessed as a result of employment or appointment to this office for personal or financial gain or without the express authorization of the Sheriff or the authorized designee.
- (d) Loaning, selling, allowing unauthorized use, giving away, or appropriating any office property for personal use, personal gain, or any other improper or unauthorized use or purpose.
- (e) Using office resources in association with any portion of an independent civil action. These resources include but are not limited to personnel, vehicles, equipment, and non-subpoenaed records.

320.5.7 EFFICIENCY

- (a) Neglect of duty.
- (b) Unsatisfactory work performance including but not limited to failure, incompetence, inefficiency, or delay in performing and/or carrying out proper orders, work assignments, or the instructions of supervisors without a reasonable and bona fide excuse.
- (c) Concealing, attempting to conceal, removing, or destroying defective or incompetent work.
- (d) Unauthorized sleeping during on-duty time or assignments.
- (e) Failure to notify the Office within 24 hours of any change in residence address or contact numbers.
- (f) Failure to notify the Department of Human Resources of changes in relevant personal information (e.g., information associated with benefits determination) in a timely fashion.

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320.5.8 PERFORMANCE

- (a) Failure to disclose or misrepresenting material facts, or making any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form, or other official document, report or form, or during the course of any work-related investigation.
- (b) The falsification of any work-related records, making misleading entries or statements with the intent to deceive or the willful and unauthorized removal, alteration, destruction and/or mutilation of any office record, public record, book, paper or document.
- (c) Failure to participate in, or giving false or misleading statements, or misrepresenting or omitting material information to a supervisor or other person in a position of authority, in connection with any investigation or in the reporting of any office--related business.
- (d) Being untruthful or knowingly making false, misleading or malicious statements that are reasonably calculated to harm the reputation, authority or official standing of this office or its members.
- (e) Disparaging remarks or conduct concerning duly constituted authority to the extent that such conduct disrupts the efficiency of this office or subverts the good order, efficiency and discipline of this office or that would tend to discredit any of its members.
- (f) Unlawful gambling or unlawful betting at any time or any place. Legal gambling or betting under any of the following conditions:
 - 1. While on office premises.
 - 2. At any work site, while on--duty or while in uniform, or while using any office equipment or system.
 - 3. Gambling activity undertaken as part of a deputy's official duties and with the express knowledge and permission of a direct supervisor is exempt from this prohibition.
- (g) Improper political activity including:
 - 1. Unauthorized attendance while on--duty at official legislative or political sessions.
 - 2. Solicitations, speeches or distribution of campaign literature for or against any political candidate or position while on-duty or on office property except as expressly authorized by County policy, the collective bargaining agreement, or the Sheriff.
- (h) Engaging in political activities during assigned working hours except as expressly authorized by County policy, the collective bargaining agreement, or the Sheriff.
- (i) Any act on- or off-duty that brings discredit to this office.

320.5.9 CONDUCT

- (a) Failure of any member to promptly and fully report activities on the member's part or the part of any other member where such activities resulted in contact with any other law enforcement agency or that may result in criminal prosecution or discipline under this policy (RCW 10.93.190).

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- (b) Unreasonable and unwarranted force to a person encountered or a person under arrest.
- (c) Exceeding lawful peace officer powers by unreasonable, unlawful, or excessive conduct.
- (d) Unauthorized or unlawful fighting, threatening, or attempting to inflict unlawful bodily harm on another.
- (e) Engaging in horseplay that reasonably could result in injury or property damage.
- (f) Discourteous, disrespectful, or discriminatory treatment of any member of the public or any member of this office or the County.
- (g) Use of obscene, indecent, profane, or derogatory language while on-duty or in uniform.
- (h) Criminal, dishonest, or disgraceful conduct, whether on- or off-duty, that adversely affects the member's relationship with this office.
- (i) Unauthorized possession of, loss of, or damage to office property or the property of others, or endangering it through carelessness or maliciousness.
- (j) Attempted or actual theft of office property; misappropriation or misuse of public funds, property, personnel, or the services or property of others; unauthorized removal or possession of office property or the property of another person.
- (k) Activity that is incompatible with a member's conditions of employment or appointment as established by law or that violates a provision of any collective bargaining agreement to include fraud in securing the appointment or hire.
- (l) Initiating any civil action for recovery of any damages or injuries incurred in the course and scope of employment or appointment without first notifying the Sheriff of such action.
- (m) Any other on- or off-duty conduct that any member knows or reasonably should know is unbecoming a member of this office, is contrary to good order, efficiency, or morale, or tends to reflect unfavorably upon this office or its members.

320.5.10 SAFETY

- (a) Failure to observe or violating office safety standards or safe working practices.
- (b) Failure to maintain current licenses or certifications required for the assignment or position (e.g., driver license, first aid).
- (c) Failure to maintain good physical condition sufficient to adequately and safely perform law enforcement duties.
- (d) Unsafe firearm or other dangerous weapon handling to include loading or unloading firearms in an unsafe manner, either on- or off-duty.
- (e) Carrying, while on the premises of the work place, any firearm or other lethal weapon that is not authorized by the member's appointing authority.
- (f) Unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment or appointment.

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- (g) Any personal action contributing to a preventable traffic collision.
- (h) Concealing or knowingly failing to report any on-the-job or work-related accident or injury as soon as practicable but within 24 hours.

320.5.11 INTOXICANTS

- (a) Reporting for work or being at work while intoxicated or when the member's ability to perform assigned duties is impaired due to the use of alcohol to any appreciable degree, medication or drugs, whether legal, prescribed or illegal.
- (b) Possession or use of alcohol at any work site or while on-duty, except as authorized in the performance of an official assignment. A member who is authorized to consume alcohol is not permitted to do so to such a degree that it may impair on-duty performance.
- (c) Unauthorized possession, use of, or attempting to bring a controlled substance, illegal drug or non-prescribed medication to any work site.

Information Technology Use

321.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the proper use of office information technology resources, including computers, electronic devices, hardware, software and systems.

321.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Computer system - All computers (on-site and portable, e.g. Mobile Data Computer [MDC]), electronic devices, hardware, software, and resources owned, leased, rented or licensed by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that are provided for official use by its members. This includes all access to, and use of, Internet Service Providers (ISP) or other service providers provided by or through the Office or office funding.

Hardware - Includes, but is not limited to, computers, computer terminals, network equipment, electronic devices, telephones, including cellular and satellite, pagers, modems or any other tangible computer device generally understood to comprise hardware.

Software - Includes, but is not limited to, all computer programs, systems and applications, including shareware. This does not include files created by the individual user.

Temporary file, permanent file or file - Any electronic document, information or data residing or located, in whole or in part, on the system including, but not limited to, spreadsheets, calendar entries, appointments, tasks, notes, letters, reports, messages, photographs or videos.

321.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that members shall use information technology resources, including computers, software and systems, that are issued or maintained by the Office in a professional manner and in accordance with this policy.

321.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to emails, texts or anything published, shared, transmitted or maintained through file-sharing software or any Internet site that is accessed, transmitted, received or reviewed on any office computer system.

The Office reserves the right to access, audit and disclose, for whatever reason, any message, including attachments, and any information accessed, transmitted, received or reviewed over any technology that is issued or maintained by the Office, including the office email system, computer network and/or any information placed into storage on any office system or device. This includes records of all keystrokes or Web-browsing history made at any office computer or over any office network. The fact that access to a database, service or website requires a username or password will not create an expectation of privacy if it is accessed through office computers, electronic devices or networks.

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Employees may not be asked or required to disclose logon information for their personal social networking accounts or to provide access to their personal social networking accounts unless otherwise allowed under RCW 49.44.200 (RCW 49.44.200).

321.4 MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS

The purpose of this subsection is to establish guidelines and procedures for the use of Mobile Data Computers (MDC) as means of communicating, dispatching, and maintaining the status of law enforcement officers. MDC's may be used to dispatch certain calls for service, electronic messages, and non-voice communications between dispatch and patrol units.

Communication between dispatch and patrol units by MDC are permitted for official use only. All communications via MDC are a matter of public record and are subject to periodic review and disclosure.

All communications via the MDC will be professional and conducted in an appropriate manner. Gossip, jokes, inappropriate comments, or unprofessional communications are all considered misuse of the MDC,

Consult your immediate supervisor prior to the installation of any programs into your assigned MDC device. (see Mobile Data Computer. [Skamania County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual: 421.4 RESTRICTED ACCESS AND USE](#))

321.5 RESTRICTED USE

Members shall not access computers, devices, software or systems for which they have not received prior authorization or the required training. Members shall immediately report unauthorized access or use of computers, devices, software or systems by another member to their supervisors or Shift Sergeants.

Members shall not use another person's access passwords, logon information and other individual security data, protocols and procedures unless directed to do so by a supervisor.

321.5.1 SOFTWARE

Members shall not copy or duplicate any copyrighted or licensed software except for a single copy for backup purposes in accordance with the software company's copyright and license agreement.

To reduce the risk of a computer virus or malicious software, members shall not install any unlicensed or unauthorized software on any office computer. Members shall not install personal copies of any software onto any office computer.

When related to criminal investigations, software program files may be downloaded only with the approval of the information systems technology (IT) staff and with the authorization of the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

No member shall knowingly make, acquire or use unauthorized copies of computer software that is not licensed to the Office while on office premises, computer systems or electronic devices.

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Such unauthorized use of software exposes the Office and involved members to severe civil and criminal penalties.

Introduction of software by members should only occur as part of the automated maintenance or update process of office- or County-approved or installed programs by the original manufacturer, producer or developer of the software.

Any other introduction of software requires prior authorization from IT staff and a full scan for malicious attachments.

321.5.2 HARDWARE

Access to technology resources provided by or through the Office shall be strictly limited to office-related activities. Data stored on or available through office computer systems shall only be accessed by authorized members who are engaged in an active investigation or assisting in an active investigation or who otherwise have a legitimate law enforcement or office-related purpose to access such data. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by a supervisor.

321.5.3 INTERNET USE

Internet access provided by or through the Office shall be strictly limited to office-related activities. Internet sites containing information that is not appropriate or applicable to office use and which shall not be intentionally accessed include, but are not limited to, adult forums, pornography, gambling, chat rooms and similar or related Internet sites. Certain exceptions may be permitted with the express approval of a supervisor as a function of a member's assignment.

Downloaded information shall be limited to messages, mail and data files.

321.5.4 OFF-DUTY USE

Members shall only use technology resources provided by the Office while on-duty or in conjunction with specific on-call assignments unless specifically authorized by a supervisor. This includes the use of telephones, cell phones, texting, email or any other "off the clock" work-related activities. This also applies to personally owned devices that are used to access office resources.

Refer to the Personal Communication Devices Policy for guidelines regarding off-duty use of personally owned technology.

321.6 PROTECTION OF AGENCY SYSTEMS AND FILES

All members have a duty to protect the computer system and related systems and devices from physical and environmental damage and are responsible for the correct use, operation, care and maintenance of the computer system.

Members shall ensure office computers and access terminals are not viewable by persons who are not authorized users. Computers and terminals should be secured, users logged off and password protections enabled whenever the user is not present. Access passwords, logon information and other individual security data, protocols and procedures are confidential information and are not to be shared. Password length, format, structure and content shall meet the prescribed standards

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required by the computer system or as directed by a supervisor and shall be changed at intervals as directed by IT staff or a supervisor.

It is prohibited for a member to allow an unauthorized user to access the computer system at any time or for any reason. Members shall promptly report any unauthorized access to the computer system or suspected intrusion from outside sources (including the Internet) to a supervisor.

321.7 INSPECTION OR REVIEW

A supervisor or the authorized designee has the express authority to inspect or review the computer system, all temporary or permanent files, related electronic systems or devices, and any contents thereof, whether such inspection or review is in the ordinary course of his/her supervisory duties or based on cause.

Reasons for inspection or review may include, but are not limited to, computer system malfunctions, problems or general computer system failure, a lawsuit against the Office involving one of its members or a member's duties, an alleged or suspected violation of any office policy, a request for disclosure of data, or a need to perform or provide a service.

The IT staff may extract, download or otherwise obtain any and all temporary or permanent files residing or located in or on the office computer system when requested by a supervisor or during the course of regular duties that require such information.

Report Preparation

322.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Report preparation is a major part of each deputy's role and responsibility. The purpose of reports is to document sufficient information to refresh the deputy's memory and to provide sufficient information for follow-up investigation and successful prosecution. Report writing is the subject of substantial formalized training and on-the-job training.

322.1.1 REPORT PREPARATION

Employees should ensure that reports are sufficiently detailed for their purpose and free from errors prior to submission. It is the responsibility of the assigned employee to complete and submit all reports taken during the shift before going off-duty unless permission to hold the report has been approved by a supervisor. Generally, reports requiring prompt follow-up action on active leads, or arrest reports where the suspect remains in custody should not be held.

Handwritten reports must be prepared legibly (e.g. Missing Persons/Stolen Vehicle forms.) If the report is not legible, the submitting employee will be required by the reviewing supervisor to promptly make corrections and resubmit the report. Employees who generate reports on computers are subject to all requirements of this policy.

All reports shall accurately reflect the identity of the persons involved, all pertinent information seen, heard or assimilated by any other sense, and any actions taken. Employees shall not suppress, conceal or distort the facts of any reported incident, nor shall any employee make a false report orally or in writing. Generally, the reporting employee's opinions should not be included in reports unless specifically identified as such.

322.2 REQUIRED REPORTING

Written reports are required in all of the following situations on the appropriate office-approved form unless otherwise approved by a supervisor.

322.2.1 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

When a member responds to a call for service, or as a result of self-initiated activity becomes aware of any activity where a crime has occurred, the member shall document the incident regardless of whether a victim desires prosecution.

Activity to be documented in a written report includes:

- (a) All arrests
- (b) All felony crimes
- (c) Non-felony incidents involving threats or stalking behavior
- (d) Situations covered by separate policy. These include:
 - 1. Use of Force Policy
 - 2. Domestic Violence Policy

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3. Child Abuse Policy
4. Adult Abuse Policy
5. Hate Crimes Policy
6. Suspicious Activity Reports Policy

- (e) All misdemeanor crimes where the victim desires a report

Misdemeanor crimes where the victim does not desire a report shall be documented using the office-approved alternative reporting method (e.g., dispatch CAD log).

322.2.2 NON-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Incidents that require documentation on the appropriate approved report include:

- (a) Any time a deputy points a firearm at any person.
- (b) Any use of force against any person by a member of this office (see the Use of Force Policy).
- (c) Any firearm discharge (e.g. destroying injured animals, CAD log) (see the Firearms Policy).
- (d) Any time a person is reported missing, regardless of jurisdiction (see the Missing Persons Reporting Policy).
- (e) Any found property or found evidence (CAD log.)
- (f) Any traffic collisions above the minimum reporting level (see Traffic Collision Reporting Policy).
- (g) Suspicious incidents that may indicate a potential for crimes against children or that a child's safety is in jeopardy.
- (h) All protective custody detentions.
- (i) Suspicious incidents that may place the public or others at risk.
- (j) Whenever the employee believes the circumstances should be documented or at the direction of a supervisor.

322.2.3 DEATH CASES

Death investigations require specific investigation methods depending on circumstances and should be handled in accordance with the Death Investigation Policy. A deputy handling a death investigation should notify and apprise a supervisor of the circumstances surrounding the incident and a determination will be made on how to proceed. The following cases shall be appropriately investigated and documented using the approved report:

- (a) Sudden or accidental deaths.
- (b) Suicides
- (c) Homicide or suspected homicide.

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- (d) Unattended deaths (No physician in attendance within 36 hours preceding death, non-Hospice deaths).
- (e) Found dead bodies or body parts.

322.2.4 INJURY OR DAMAGE BY COUNTY PERSONNEL

Reports shall be taken if an injury occurs that is a result of an act of a County employee. Additionally, reports shall be taken involving damage to County property or County equipment.

322.2.5 MISCELLANEOUS INJURIES

Any injury that is reported to this office shall require a report when:

- (a) The injury is a result of drug overdose.
- (b) Attempted suicide.
- (c) The injury is major/serious, whereas death could result.
- (d) The circumstances surrounding the incident are suspicious in nature and it is desirable to record the event.

The above reporting requirements are not intended to be all-inclusive. A supervisor may direct an employee to document any incident he/she deems necessary.

322.2.6 ALTERNATE REPORTING FOR VICTIMS

Reports that may be submitted by the public via online or other self-completed reporting processes include:

- (a) Lost property.
- (b) Misdemeanor thefts of property, other than firearms or materials that threaten public safety, when there is no suspect information, serial number or ability to trace the item.
 - 1. Misdemeanor thefts of cellular telephones may be reported even though they have a serial number.
- (c) Misdemeanor vandalism with no suspect information and no hate crime implications.
- (d) Vehicle burglaries with no suspect information or evidence.
- (e) Stolen vehicle attempts with no suspect information or evidence.
- (f) Annoying telephone calls with no suspect information.
- (g) Identity theft without an identifiable suspect.
- (h) Online or email fraud solicitations without an identifiable suspect and if the financial loss classifies the crime as a misdemeanor.
- (i) Hit-and-run vehicle collisions with no suspect or suspect vehicle.
- (j) Supplemental property lists.

Members at the scene of one of the above incidents should not refer the reporting party to an alternate means of reporting without authorization from a supervisor. Members may refer victims

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to online victim assistance programs (e.g., Federal Communications Commission (FCC) website for identity theft, Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) website for computer crimes).

322.3 GENERAL POLICY OF EXPEDITIOUS REPORTING

In general, all deputies and supervisors shall act with promptness and efficiency in the preparation and processing of all reports. An incomplete report, unorganized reports or reports delayed without supervisory approval are not acceptable. Reports shall be processed according to established priorities or according to special priority necessary under exceptional circumstances.

322.3.1 GENERAL POLICY OF HANDWRITTEN REPORTS

Some incidents and report forms lend themselves to block print rather than typing. In general, the narrative portion of those reports where an arrest is made or when there is a long narrative should be typed or dictated.

Supervisors may require, with the foregoing general policy in mind, block printing or typing of reports of any nature for office consistency.

322.3.2 GENERAL USE OF OTHER HANDWRITTEN FORMS

County, state and federal agency forms may be block printed as appropriate. In general, the form itself may make the requirement for typing apparent.

322.4 REPORT CORRECTIONS

Supervisors shall review reports for content and accuracy. If a correction is necessary, the reviewing supervisor should complete the Report Correction form stating the reasons for rejection. The original report and the correction form should be returned to the reporting employee for correction as soon as practical. It shall be the responsibility of the originating deputy to ensure that any report returned for correction is processed in a timely manner.

322.5 REPORT CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS

Reports that have been approved by a supervisor and submitted to the Records Section for filing and distribution shall not be modified or altered except by way of a supplemental report. Reviewed reports that have not yet been submitted to the Records Section may be corrected or modified by the authoring deputy only with the knowledge and authorization of the reviewing supervisor.

322.6 ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office has established an electronic signature procedure for use by all employees of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The Patrol Undersheriff shall be responsible for maintaining the electronic signature system and ensuring that each employee creates a unique, confidential password for his/her electronic signature.

- Employees may only use their electronic signature for official reports or other official communications.

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- Each employee shall be responsible for the security and use of his/her electronic signature and shall promptly notify a supervisor if the electronic signature has or may have been compromised or misused.

Media Relations

323.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for media releases and media access to scenes of disasters, criminal investigations, emergencies and other law enforcement activities.

323.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The ultimate authority and responsibility for the release of information to the media shall remain with the Sheriff, however, in situations not warranting immediate notice to the Sheriff and in situations where the Sheriff has given prior approval, Division Chiefs, Shift Sergeants and designated Public Information Officer(s) may prepare and release information to the media in accordance with this policy and the applicable law.

323.2.1 MEDIA REQUEST

Any media request for information or access to a law enforcement situation shall be referred to the designated office media representative, or if unavailable, to the first available supervisor. Prior to releasing any information to the media, employees shall consider the following:

- (a) At no time shall any employee of this office make any comment or release any official information to the media without prior approval from a supervisor or the designated office media representative.
- (b) In situations involving multiple law enforcement agencies, every reasonable effort should be made to coordinate media releases with the authorized representative of each involved agency prior to the release of any information by this office.
- (c) Under no circumstance should any member of this office make any comment(s) to the media regarding any law enforcement incident not involving this office without prior approval of the Sheriff.

323.3 MEDIA ACCESS

Authorized members of the media shall be provided access to scenes of disasters, criminal investigations, emergencies and other law enforcement activities subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The media representative shall produce valid press credentials that shall be prominently displayed at all times while in areas otherwise closed to the public.
- (b) Media representatives may be prevented from interfering with emergency operations and criminal investigations.
 - 1. Reasonable effort should be made to provide a safe staging area for the media that is near the incident and that will not interfere with emergency or criminal investigation operations. All information released to the media should

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be coordinated through the office Public Information Officer or other designated spokesperson.

2. Whenever the presence of media or other aircraft pose a threat to public or officer safety or significantly hampers incident operations, the field supervisor should consider requesting a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR). All requests for a TFR should be routed through the Shift Sergeant. The TFR request should include specific information regarding the perimeter and altitude necessary for the incident and should be requested through the appropriate control tower. If the control tower is not known, the Federal Aviation Administration should be contacted (14 CFR 91.137).
- (c) No member of this office who is under investigation shall be subjected to media visits or interviews without the consent of the involved employee.
- (d) Media interviews with individuals who are in custody shall not be permitted without the approval of the Sheriff and the express consent of the person in custody.

A tactical operation should be handled in the same manner as a crime scene, except the news media should be permitted within the outer perimeter of the scene, subject to any restrictions as determined by the supervisor in charge. Office members shall not jeopardize a tactical operation in order to accommodate the news media. All comments to the media shall be coordinated through a supervisor or the Public Information Officer.

323.3.1 PROVIDING ADVANCE INFORMATION

To protect the safety and rights of deputies and other persons, advance information about planned actions by law enforcement personnel, such as movement of persons in custody or the execution of an arrest or search warrant, should not be disclosed to the news media, nor should media representatives be invited to be present at such actions except with the prior approval of the Sheriff.

Any exceptions to the above should only be considered for the furtherance of legitimate law enforcement purposes. Prior to approving any exception the Sheriff will consider, at minimum, whether the release of information or presence of the media would unreasonably endanger any individual, prejudice the rights of any person or is otherwise prohibited by law.

323.4 SCOPE OF INFORMATION SUBJECT TO RELEASE

The Office will maintain a daily information log (via CAD) of significant law enforcement activities that shall be made available, upon request, to media representatives through the Shift Sergeant. When requested, additional information may be made available (RCW 42.56.070(1)). This log will generally contain the following information:

- (a) The date, time, location, case number, type of crime, extent of injury or loss and names of individuals (except confidential informants) involved in crimes occurring within this jurisdiction unless the release of such information would endanger the safety of any individual or jeopardize the successful completion of any ongoing investigation.

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- (b) The date, time, location, case number, name, birth date and charges for each person arrested by this office unless the release of such information would endanger the safety of any individual or jeopardize the successful completion of any ongoing investigation.
- (c) The time and location of other significant law enforcement activities or requests for service with a brief summary of the incident subject to the restrictions of this policy and applicable law.

Identifying information concerning deceased individuals shall not be released to the media until notification of next of kin or otherwise cleared through the Coroner's Office.

Any requests for copies of related reports or additional information not contained in this log shall be referred to the designated office media representative, the Public Records Officer, or if unavailable, to the Shift Sergeant. Such requests will generally be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act (RCW Chapter 42.56.001 et seq.).

323.4.1 RESTRICTED INFORMATION

It shall be the responsibility of the authorized employee dealing with media requests to ensure that restricted information is not inappropriately released to the media by this office (see the Records Maintenance and Release and Personnel Files policies). When in doubt, authorized and available legal counsel should be obtained.

Subpoenas and Court Appearances

324.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines for office members who must appear in court. It will allow the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to cover any related work absences and keep the Office informed about relevant legal matters.

324.2 POLICY

Skamania County Sheriff's Office members will respond appropriately to all subpoenas and any other court-ordered appearances.

324.3 SUBPOENAS

Only office members authorized to receive a subpoena on behalf of this office or any of its members may do so.

A subpoena may be served upon a member by personal service or by leaving such copy at the place of his/her residence (Civil Rules, CR 45; Civil Rules, CrLJ 45; Criminal Rules, CrRLJ 4.8; Criminal Rules, CrR 4.8).

Criminal subpoenas may also be served upon a member by first-class mail in a limited criminal matter. A criminal subpoena in Superior Court may be served by first-class mail together with a waiver of personal service and instructions for returning such waiver to complete service (Criminal Rules, CrRLJ 4.8; Criminal Rules, CrR 4.8).

324.3.1 SPECIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any member who is subpoenaed to testify, agrees to testify or provides information on behalf of or at the request of any party other than the County Attorney or the prosecutor shall notify his/her immediate supervisor without delay regarding:

- (a) Any civil case where the County or one of its members, as a result of his/her official capacity, is a party.
- (b) Any civil case where any other city, county, state or federal unit of government or a member of any such unit of government, as a result of his/her official capacity, is a party.
- (c) Any criminal proceeding where the member is called to testify or provide information on behalf of the defense.
- (d) Any civil action stemming from the member's on-duty activity or because of his/her association with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.
- (e) Any personnel or disciplinary matter when called to testify or to provide information by a government entity other than the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

The supervisor will then notify the Sheriff and the appropriate prosecuting attorney as may be indicated by the case. The Sheriff should determine if additional legal support is necessary.

Subpoenas and Court Appearances

No member shall be retaliated against for testifying in any matter.

324.3.2 CIVIL SUBPOENA

The Office will compensate members who appear in their official capacities on civil matters arising out of their official duties, as directed by the current memorandum of understanding or collective bargaining agreement.

The Office should seek reimbursement for the member's compensation through the civil attorney of record who subpoenaed the member.

324.3.3 OFF-DUTY RELATED SUBPOENAS

Members receiving valid subpoenas for off-duty actions not related to their employment or appointment will not be compensated for their appearance. Arrangements for time off shall be coordinated through their immediate supervisors.

324.4 FAILURE TO APPEAR

Any member who fails to comply with the terms of any properly served subpoena or court-ordered appearance may be subject to discipline. This includes properly served orders to appear that were issued by a state administrative agency.

324.5 STANDBY

To facilitate standby agreements, members are required to provide and maintain current information on their addresses and contact telephone numbers with the Office.

If a member on standby changes his/her location during the day, the member shall notify the designated office member of how he/she can be reached. Members are required to remain on standby until released by the court or the party that issued the subpoena.

324.6 COURTROOM PROTOCOL

When appearing in court, members shall:

- (a) Be punctual when appearing in court and prepared to proceed immediately with the case for which they are scheduled to appear.
- (b) Dress in the office uniform or business attire. District Court appearances requires the uniform of the season; Superior Court trials require a Class A, long-sleeved uniform with tie.
- (c) Observe all rules of the court in which they are appearing and remain alert to changes in the assigned courtroom where their matter is to be heard.

324.6.1 TESTIMONY

Before the date of testifying, the subpoenaed member shall request a copy of relevant reports and become familiar with the content in order to be prepared for court.

Subpoenas and Court Appearances

324.7 OVERTIME APPEARANCES

When a member appears in court on his/her off-duty time, he/she will be compensated in accordance with the current memorandum of understanding or collective bargaining agreement.

Outside Agency Assistance

325.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members when requesting or responding to a request for mutual aid or when assisting another law enforcement agency.

325.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to promptly respond to requests for assistance by other law enforcement agencies, subject to available resources and consistent with the applicable laws and policies of this office.

325.3 ASSISTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, requests for any type of assistance from another agency should be routed to the Shift Sergeant's office for approval. In some instances, a mutual aid agreement or other established protocol may exist that eliminates the need for approval of individual requests.

When another law enforcement agency requests assistance from this office, the Shift Sergeant may authorize, if available, an appropriate number of personnel to assist. Members are reminded that their actions when rendering assistance must conform with applicable laws and be consistent with the policies of this office.

Deputies may respond to a request for emergency assistance, however, they shall notify a supervisor of their activity as soon as practicable.

Arrestees may be temporarily detained by this office until arrangements for transportation are made by the outside agency. Probation violators who are temporarily detained by this office will not ordinarily be booked at this office. Only in exceptional circumstances, and subject to supervisor approval, will this office provide transportation of arrestees to other facilities on behalf of another agency.

When transportation assistance is rendered, documentation via CAD or a written report shall be prepared and submitted by the handling member unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

325.3.1 INITIATED ACTIVITY

Any on-duty deputy who engages in law enforcement activities of any type that are not part of a mutual aid request and take place outside the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall notify his/her supervisor or the Shift Sergeant and Dispatch as soon as practicable. This requirement does not apply to special enforcement details or multi-agency units that regularly work in multiple jurisdictions.

325.4 REQUESTING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

If assistance is needed from another agency, the member requesting assistance should, if practicable, first notify a supervisor. The handling member or supervisor should direct assisting personnel to where they are needed and to whom they should report when they arrive.

Outside Agency Assistance

The requesting member should arrange for appropriate **radio communication capabilities**, if necessary and available, so that communication can be coordinated between assisting personnel.

325.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Incidents of outside assistance or law enforcement activities that are not documented in a crime report shall be documented in a general case report or as directed by the Shift Sergeant.

325.6 MANDATORY SHARING

Equipment and supplies purchased with federal funds or grants that require such equipment and supplies be shared with other agencies should be documented and updated as necessary by the Administration Division Chief or the authorized designee.

The documentation should include:

- (a) The conditions relative to sharing.
- (b) The training requirements for:
 - 1. The use of the supplies and equipment.
 - 2. The members trained in the use of the supplies and equipment.
- (c) Any other requirements for use of the equipment and supplies.

Copies of the documentation should be provided to Dispatch and the Shift Sergeant to ensure use of the equipment and supplies is in compliance with the applicable sharing agreements.

The Training Manager should maintain documentation that the appropriate members have received the required training.

Registered Offender Information

326.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines by which the Skamania County Sheriff's Office will address issues associated with certain offenders who are residing in the jurisdiction and how the Office will disseminate information and respond to public inquiries for information about registered offenders.

326.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to identify and monitor registered offenders living within this jurisdiction and to take reasonable steps to address the risks those persons may pose.

326.3 REGISTRATION

The Detective Unit supervisor shall establish a process to reasonably accommodate registration of certain offenders. The process should rebut any allegation on the part of the offender that the registration process was too confusing, burdensome or difficult for compliance. If it is reasonable to do so, an investigator assigned to related investigations should conduct the registration in order to best evaluate any threat the person may pose to the community. Those assigned to register offenders should receive appropriate training regarding the registration process.

Upon conclusion of the registration process, the investigator shall ensure that the registration information is provided to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) within five working days in accordance with [RCW 43.43.540](#). The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) shall be provided any requested information for the administration of the Sex Offender Information website ([RCW 4.24.550](#)).

A criminal investigation for failure to register will be initiated if a registrant refuses to provide any of the required information or complete the process.

326.3.1 CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION FOR SEX OR KIDNAPPING OFFENDERS

Sex or kidnapping offenders who are required to register must appear in person and provide the following (RCW 9A.44.130):

- Name
- Complete residential address or where he/she plans to stay
- Date and place of birth
- Place of employment
- Crime for which the person has been convicted
- Date and place of conviction
- Aliases
- Social Security number

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- Biological sample if one has not already been submitted to the WSP (see the Biological Samples Policy for collection protocol) (RCW 43.43.754)

Offenders lacking a fixed residence must report weekly, in person, to the sheriff's office where he/she is registered. Forms used to record where the offender stayed during the week should include an express request for offenders to provide an accurate accounting of where they stayed to the county sheriff.

The registering member shall take photographs and fingerprints, which may include palmprints, of all sex/kidnapping offenders.

326.3.2 CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION FOR FELONY FIREARM OFFENDERS

Felony firearm offenders who are required to register must appear in person and provide the following ([RCW 9.41.330](#) ; [RCW 9.41.333](#)):

- Name and any aliases
- Complete residential address or where he/she plans to stay
- Identifying information, including a physical description
- Crime for which the person has been convicted
- Date and place of conviction
- Names of any other county where the firearm offender may have registered

The registering member may take photographs and fingerprints of the felony firearm offender.

326.4 MONITORING OF REGISTERED OFFENDERS

The Detective Unit supervisor should establish a system to periodically, and at least once annually, verify that a registrant remains in compliance with his/her registration requirements after the initial registration. This verification should include, as applicable:

- (a) Efforts to confirm residence using an unobtrusive method, such as an Internet search, drive-by of the declared residence or address verification under [RCW 9A.44.135](#) .
 - (a) When notice is received that a sex offender is moving outside the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, the Detective Unit supervisor is responsible for address verification until the registrant completes registration with a new residential address ([RCW 9A.44.130](#) (5)).
- (b) Review of information on the WASPC Sex Offender Information website.
- (c) Contact with a registrant's community correction officer.
- (d) Review any available Washington State database of felony firearm offenders.

Any discrepancies with sex/kidnapping offenders should be reported to ACCESS (A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System), which is administered by WSP, and, in the case of sex offenders only, to WASPC.

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The Detective Unit supervisor should also establish a procedure to routinely disseminate information regarding registered offenders to Skamania County Sheriff's Office personnel, including timely updates regarding new or relocated registrants.

326.4.1 OFFENDERS TRAVELING OUT OF THE COUNTRY

When written notice is received from a registrant who intends to travel outside of the United States, the Sheriff or designee shall notify the United States Marshals Service as soon as practicable after receipt of notification and also of any further notice of changes or cancellation of travel plans (RCW 9A.44.130(3)).

326.5 DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Members will not unilaterally make a public notification advising the community of a particular sex/kidnapping registrant's presence in the community. Members who identify a significant risk or other public safety issue associated with a sex/kidnapping registrant should promptly advise their supervisor. The supervisor should evaluate the request and forward the information to the Sheriff if warranted. A determination will be made by the Sheriff, with the assistance of legal counsel as necessary, whether such a public alert should be made.

Members of the public requesting information on sex/kidnapping registrants should be provided the WASPC Sex Offender Information website or the Skamania County Sheriff's Office's website.

The Chief Civil Deputy shall release local sex/kidnapping registered offender information to residents in accordance with [RCW 4.24.550](#) and in compliance with a request under the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56.001 et seq.).

Information pertaining to felony firearm offenders should not be disseminated to the public. All inquiries should be referred to WSP.

326.5.1 RELEASE NOTIFICATIONS FOR SEX OR KIDNAPPING OFFENDERS

Registrant information that is released should include notification that:

- (a) The offender registry includes only those persons who have been required by law to register and who are in compliance with the offender registration laws.
- (b) The information is provided as a public service and may not be current or accurate.
- (c) Persons should not rely solely on the offender registry as a safeguard against offenses in their communities.
- (d) The crime for which a person is convicted may not accurately reflect the level of risk.
- (e) Anyone who uses information contained in the registry to harass registrants or commit any crime may be subject to criminal prosecution.
- (f) The Skamania County Sheriff's Office has no authority to direct where an offender may live.

Registered Offender Information

326.5.2 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

The Investigation Division Chief shall ensure that:

- (a) A public notification is made for sex offenders who are classified as Risk Level III and who register in the County. The notice shall conform to the guidelines established in RCW 4.24.5501.
- (b) All information on sex/kidnapping offenders registered in the County is regularly updated and posted on the WASPC Sex Offender Information website (RCW 4.24.550(5)).

326.5.3 DISCRETIONARY DISSEMINATION FOR SEX OFFENDERS

Dissemination should be predicated upon the levels detailed below (RCW 4.24.550(3)):

- (a) Offenders classified as Risk Level I: The Office may disclose, upon request, relevant, necessary and accurate information to any victim or witness to the offense and to any individual community member who lives near the residence where the sex offender resides, expects to reside or is regularly found, and to any individual who requests information regarding a specific offender.
- (b) Offenders classified as Risk Level II: In addition to the dissemination for Level I, the Office may also disclose relevant, necessary and accurate information to public and private schools, child day care centers, family day care providers, public libraries, businesses and organizations that serve primarily children, women or vulnerable adults, and neighbors and community groups near the residence where the sex offender resides, expects to reside or is regularly found.
- (c) Offenders classified as Risk Level III: In addition to the dissemination of Level I and Level II, the Office may also disclose relevant, necessary and accurate information to the public at large.
- (d) Homeless and transient sex offenders may present unique risks to the community due to the impracticality of localized notification. The Office may also disclose relevant, necessary and accurate information to the public at large for sex offenders registered as homeless or transient.

326.5.4 SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS

The Sheriff or their designee has the responsibility of notifying the appropriate person at a school or other educational institution as set forth in RCW 9A.44.138 of any sex/kidnapping offender who attends or is employed there, and for providing the following information about the offender:

- Name
- Complete residential address
- Date and place of birth
- Place of employment

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- Crime for which the person has been convicted
- Date and place of conviction
- Aliases
- Photograph
- Risk level classification

326.6 SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT

The Investigation Division Chief shall establish a procedure to review and assign an initial risk level classification of sex offenders who have moved or are released into this jurisdiction and the risk assessment level has not already been assigned by the Washington Department of Corrections. That procedure shall address ([RCW 4.24.550](#) (6)):

- The circumstances under which the Skamania County Sheriff's Office is authorized to assign its own risk level.
- Risk level classification criteria.
- What risk assessment tools may be used and how such tools are scored.
- Assessment of known aggravating or mitigating factors related to the risk posed by the offender to the community.
- Notification process following a change in the risk level classification.
- The process for an offender to petition for review of the risk level classification.

Major Incident Notification

327.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members of this office in determining when, how and to whom notification of major incidents should be made.

327.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes that certain incidents should be brought to the attention of supervisors or other specified personnel of this office to facilitate the coordination of activities and ensure that inquiries from the media and the public may be properly addressed.

327.3 MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR NOTIFICATION

Most situations where the media show a strong interest are also of interest to the Sheriff and the affected Division Chief. The following list of incident types is provided as a guide for notification and is not intended to be all-inclusive:

- Homicides.
- Traffic collisions with fatalities.
- Officer-involved shooting on- or off-duty (See the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy for special notifications {**policy 305**}).
- Significant injury or death to employee on- or off-duty.
- Death of a prominent Skamania County official.
- Arrest of Office employee or prominent Skamania County official.
- Aircraft crash with major damage and/or injury or death.
- In-custody deaths.

327.4 SHIFT SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITY

The Shift Sergeant is responsible for making the appropriate notifications. The Shift Sergeant shall make reasonable attempts to obtain as much information on the incident as possible before notification. The Shift Sergeant shall attempt to make the notifications as soon as practical. Notification should be made by calling the home phone number first and then any additional contact numbers supplied.

327.4.1 STAFF NOTIFICATION

In the event an incident occurs described in MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR NOTIFICATION, the Sheriff shall be notified along with the affected Division Chief if that division is affected.

327.4.2 DETECTIVE NOTIFICATION

If the incident requires that a detective respond from home, the immediate supervisor of the appropriate detail shall be contacted who will then contact the appropriate detective.

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327.4.3 TRAFFIC NOTIFICATION

In the event of a traffic fatality or major injury, the Shift Sergeant shall be notified who will then contact the appropriate Collision investigator..

327.4.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

The Division Chief shall be called after members of staff have been notified that it appears the media may have a significant interest in the incident.

Death Investigation

328.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for situations where deputies initially respond to and investigate the circumstances of a deceased person.

Some causes of death may not be readily apparent and some cases differ substantially from what they appear to be initially. The thoroughness of death investigations and use of appropriate resources and evidence gathering techniques is critical.

328.2 SCENE PROTOCOL NON-SUSPICIOUS DEATH

The initial responding deputy should make every reasonable effort to ensure scene security and evidence preservation when conducting a death investigation. The following steps should be made, when applicable and reasonable:

- (a) Establish a scene perimeter
- (b) Limit all unnecessary personnel from entering the scene
- (c) Supervisor notification
- (d) Photograph scene
- (e) Absent suspicious circumstances, collect and document any pertinent evidence to include medications, identification, etc.
- (f) Request for coroner response to scene
- (g) Ascertain next-of-kin information
- (h) Request funeral home response for body removal (unless arrangements were previously made by family for expected death).

328.3 SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS)

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the unexpected death, usually during sleep, of a seemingly healthy baby less than a year old.

- (a) Establish scene security
- (b) Limit all unnecessary personnel from entering the scene.
- (c) Supervisor notification
- (d) Detective notification
- (e) Photograph scene (specifically clothing and bedding surrounding the infant.)
- (f) Indicate position of infant when found unresponsive (stomach, back, or side.)
- (g) Indicate the temperature of the room where the infant was found unresponsive.
- (h) Determine who was the caregiver at the time of the incident (parent, grandparent, daycare)

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- (i) Determine any pre-existing medical conditions, or birth defect(s)
- (j) Determine the most recent pediatrician or health care provider visit.

328.4 INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

Emergency medical services shall be called in all suspected death cases unless death is obvious (e.g., decapitated, decomposed).

A supervisor shall be notified as soon as possible to assist and provide appropriate personnel and resources. The on-scene supervisor should determine whether follow-up investigation is required and notify the Investigation Division Commander as necessary. The Shift Sergeant will make notification to command staff in accordance with the Major Incident Notification Policy **327**.

328.4.1 CORONER JURISDICTION OVER REMAINS

The coroner has jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death suddenly in any of the following cases ([RCW 68.50.010](#)):

- (a) When in apparent good health without medical attendance within the thirty-six hours preceding death.
- (b) Where the circumstances of death indicate death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means.
- (c) Where death occurs under suspicious circumstances.
- (d) Where a coroner's autopsy or post mortem or coroner's inquest is to be held.
- (e) Where death results from unknown or obscure causes.
- (f) Where death occurs within one year following an accident.
- (g) Where the death is caused by any violence whatsoever.
- (h) Where death results from a known or suspected abortion; whether self-induced or otherwise.
- (i) Where death apparently results from drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cuts, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, narcotics or other addictions, tetanus, strangulations, suffocation or smothering.
- (j) Where death is due to premature birth or still birth.
- (k) Where death is due to a violent contagious disease or suspected contagious disease which may be a public health hazard.
- (l) Where death results from alleged rape, carnal knowledge or sodomy.
- (m) Where death occurs in a jail or prison.
- (n) Where a body is found dead or is not claimed by relatives or friends.

The body or human remains shall not be disturbed or moved from the position or place of death without permission of the coroner ([RCW 68.50.050](#)).

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328.4.2 DEATH INVESTIGATION REPORTING

All incidents involving a death shall be documented on the appropriate form.

328.4.3 SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

If the initially assigned deputy suspects that the death involves a homicide or other suspicious circumstances, the deputy shall take steps to protect the scene. The Detective Unit shall be notified to determine the possible need for an investigator to respond to the scene.

If the on-scene supervisor, through consultation with the Shift Sergeant or Detective Unit supervisor, is unable to determine the manner of death, the investigation shall proceed as though it is a homicide.

The investigator assigned to investigate a homicide or death that occurred under suspicious circumstances may, with the approval of the investigator's supervisor, request the Medical Examiner to conduct physical examinations and tests, and to provide a report.

328.4.4 INDIGENOUS PERSONS

Upon knowledge that the remains are of an indigenous person, deputies shall attempt to identify and contact, as soon as practicable, family members and any affected tribes, tribal organizations, and communities prior to removal or disturbance of the remains, except where deemed necessary by the [MedicalExaminer/JOP] and deputies in the interest of safety or to preserve evidence for any ongoing criminal investigation. Efforts shall include attempts to facilitate contact through the regional liaison for missing and murdered indigenous persons pursuant to [RCW 43.43.874](#) within 10 days of the [MedicalExaminer/JOP] having jurisdiction over the remains (Chapter 251 § 1, 2022 Laws).

The lead investigator in cooperation with the [MedicalExaminer/JOP] shall provide the family member or representative of a list that contains any prohibited conduct when interacting with the remains including an explanation of why the conduct is prohibited. Additionally, any practices or ceremonies related to the remains by the family or representative require proper authorization by the [MedicalExaminer/JOP] and the lead investigator while the remains are under the jurisdiction of the [MedicalExaminer/JOP] (Chapter 251 § 1, 2022 Laws).

328.4.5 EMPLOYMENT-RELATED DEATHS OR INJURIES

Any member of this office who responds to and determines that a death, serious illness, or serious injury has occurred as a result of an accident at or in connection with the victim's employment should ensure that the regional Washington Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) office is notified of all pertinent information.

328.5 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to respond, document, and investigate incidents where a person is deceased. Investigations involving the death of a person, including those from natural causes, accidents, workplace incidents, suicide, and homicide, shall be initiated, conducted, and properly documented.

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328.6 DEATH NOTIFICATION

When reasonably practicable, and if not handled by the Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office, notification to the next-of-kin of the deceased person shall be made, in person, by the deputy assigned to the incident. If the next-of-kin lives in another jurisdiction, a law enforcement official from that jurisdiction shall be requested to make the personal notification.

If a deceased person has been identified as a missing person, this office shall attempt to locate family members and inform them of the death and location of the deceased missing person's remains. All efforts to locate and notify family members shall be recorded in appropriate reports.

328.7 UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

If the identity of a dead body cannot be established, the handling deputy will request from the [MedicalExaminer/JOP] a unique identifying number for the body. The number shall be included in any report.

Identity Theft

329.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Identity theft is a growing trend that frequently involves related crimes in multiple jurisdictions. This policy is intended to provide guidelines for the reporting and investigation of such crimes.

329.2 REPORTING

This office will initiate an incident report whenever a person reasonably suspects that his/her financial information or means of identification has been unlawfully obtained, used, or transferred to another person or entity in all cases where the victim resides or works within this jurisdiction, or where any part of the crime occurred within this jurisdiction. The employee receiving the report will ensure that the complainant receives a copy of the incident report from an authorized employee of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, as specified under ([RCW 9.35.050](#)).

In cases where the reporting party does not reside or work within this jurisdiction and there is no known or suspected criminal activity occurring within this jurisdiction the reporting party may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction. If it is not reasonably practical for the reporting party to file a timely report with his/her home jurisdiction the receiving employee should take a courtesy incident report to be forwarded to the agency having jurisdiction.

Reports should include all known incidents of fraudulent activity (e.g., credit card number applied for in victim's name when the victim has never made such an application).

The employee preparing the report should also cross-reference all other known reports made by the victim (e.g., US Secret Service, credit reporting bureaus, US Postal Service and DOL) with all known report numbers.

Following supervisory review and office processing, the initial report should be forwarded to the appropriate detective for follow up investigation, coordination with other agencies and prosecution as circumstances dictate.

Limited English Proficiency Services

330.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to members when communicating with individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) (42 USC § 2000d).

330.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Authorized interpreter - A person who has been screened and authorized by the Office to act as an interpreter and/or translator for others.

Interpret or interpretation - The act of listening to a communication in one language (source language) and orally converting it to another language (target language) while retaining the same meaning.

Limited English proficient (LEP) - Any individual whose primary language is not English and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English. These individuals may be competent in certain types of communication (e.g., speaking or understanding) but still be LEP for other purposes (e.g., reading or writing). Similarly, LEP designations are context-specific; an individual may possess sufficient English language skills to function in one setting but these skills may be insufficient in other situations.

Qualified bilingual member - A member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, designated by the Office, who has the ability to communicate fluently, directly and accurately in both English and another language. Bilingual members may be fluent enough to communicate in a non-English language but may not be sufficiently fluent to interpret or translate from one language into another.

Translate or translation - The replacement of written text from one language (source language) into an equivalent written text (target language).

330.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to reasonably ensure that LEP individuals have meaningful access to law enforcement services, programs and activities, while not imposing undue burdens on its members.

The Office will not discriminate against or deny any individual access to services, rights or programs based upon national origin or any other protected interest or right.

330.3 LEP DESIGNEE/COORDINATOR

The Sheriff shall delegate certain responsibilities to the Division Chief or the authorized designee.

These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Coordinating and implementing all aspects of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office's LEP services to LEP individuals.

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- (b) Developing procedures that will enable members to access LEP services, including telephonic interpreters, and ensuring the procedures are available to all members.
- (c) Ensuring that a list of all qualified bilingual members and authorized interpreters is maintained and available to each Shift Sergeant and Dispatch Supervisor. The list should include information regarding the following:
 - 1. Languages spoken
 - 2. Contact information
 - 3. Availability
- (d) Ensuring signage stating that interpreters are available free of charge to LEP individuals is posted in appropriate areas and in the most commonly spoken languages.
- (e) Reviewing existing and newly developed documents to determine which are vital documents and should be translated, and into which languages the documents should be translated.
- (f) Annually assessing demographic data and other resources, including contracted language services utilization data and community-based organizations, to determine if there are additional documents or languages that are appropriate for translation.
- (g) Identifying standards and assessments to be used by the Office to qualify individuals as qualified bilingual members or authorized interpreters.
- (h) Periodically reviewing efforts of the Office in providing meaningful access to LEP individuals, and, as appropriate, developing reports, new procedures, or recommending modifications to this policy.
- (i) Receiving and responding to complaints regarding office LEP services.
- (j) Ensuring appropriate processes are in place to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and inquiries regarding discrimination in access to office services, programs and activities.

330.4 FOUR-FACTOR ANALYSIS

Since there are many different languages that members could encounter, the Office will utilize the four-factor analysis outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients, available at the DOJ website, to determine which measures will provide meaningful access to its services and programs. It is recognized that law enforcement contacts and circumstances will vary considerably. This analysis, therefore, must remain flexible and will require an ongoing balance of four factors, which are:

- (a) The number or proportion of LEP individuals eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by office members, or who may benefit from programs or services within the jurisdiction of the Office or a particular geographic area.
- (b) The frequency with which LEP individuals are likely to come in contact with office members, programs or services.

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- (c) The nature and importance of the contact, program, information or service provided.
- (d) The cost of providing LEP assistance and the resources available.

330.5 TYPES OF LEP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Skamania County Sheriff's Office members should never refuse service to an LEP individual who is requesting assistance, nor should they require an LEP individual to furnish an interpreter as a condition for receiving assistance. The Office will make every reasonable effort to provide meaningful and timely assistance to LEP individuals through a variety of services.

The Office will utilize all reasonably available tools, such as language identification cards, when attempting to determine an LEP individual's primary language.

LEP individuals may choose to accept office-provided LEP services at no cost or they may choose to provide their own.

Office-provided LEP services may include, but are not limited to, the assistance methods described in this policy.

330.6 WRITTEN FORMS AND GUIDELINES

Vital documents or those that are frequently used should be translated into languages most likely to be encountered. The Division Chief/designee will arrange to make these translated documents available to members and other appropriate individuals, as necessary.

330.7 AUDIO RECORDINGS

The Office may develop audio recordings of important or frequently requested information in a language most likely to be understood by those LEP individuals who are representative of the community being served.

330.8 QUALIFIED BILINGUAL MEMBERS

Bilingual members may be qualified to provide LEP services when they have demonstrated through established office procedures a sufficient level of skill and competence to fluently communicate in both English and a non-English language. Members utilized for LEP services must demonstrate knowledge of the functions of an interpreter/translator and the ethical issues involved when acting as a language conduit. Additionally, bilingual members must be able to communicate technical and law enforcement terminology, and be sufficiently proficient in the non-English language to perform complicated tasks, such as conducting interrogations, taking statements, collecting evidence or conveying rights or responsibilities.

When a qualified bilingual member from this office is not available, personnel from other County departments, who have been identified by the Office as having the requisite skills and competence, may be requested.

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330.9 AUTHORIZED INTERPRETERS

Any person designated by the Office to act as an authorized interpreter and/or translator must have demonstrated competence in both English and the involved non-English language, must have an understanding of the functions of an interpreter that allows for correct and effective translation, and should not be a person with an interest in the office case or investigation involving the LEP individual. A person providing interpretation or translation services may be required to establish the accuracy and trustworthiness of the interpretation or translation in a court proceeding.

Authorized interpreters must pass a screening process established by the Division Chief/designee which demonstrates that their skills and abilities include:

- (a) The competence and ability to communicate information accurately in both English and in the target language.
- (b) Knowledge, in both languages, of any specialized terms or concepts peculiar to this office and of any particularized vocabulary or phraseology used by the LEP individual.
- (c) The ability to understand and adhere to the interpreter role without deviating into other roles, such as counselor or legal adviser.
- (d) Knowledge of the ethical issues involved when acting as a language conduit.

330.9.1 SOURCES OF AUTHORIZED INTERPRETERS

The Office may contract with authorized interpreters who are available over the telephone. Members may use these services with the approval of a supervisor and in compliance with established procedures.

Other sources may include:

- Qualified bilingual members of this office or personnel from other County departments.
- Individuals employed exclusively to perform interpretation services.
- Contracted in-person interpreters, such as state or federal court interpreters, among others.
- Interpreters from other agencies who have been qualified as interpreters by this office, and with whom the Office has a resource-sharing or other arrangement that they will interpret according to office guidelines.

330.9.2 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER SOURCES OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

Language assistance may be available from community volunteers who have demonstrated competence in either monolingual (direct) communication and/or in interpretation or translation (as noted in above), and have been approved by the Office to communicate with LEP individuals.

Where qualified bilingual members or other authorized interpreters are unavailable to assist, approved community volunteers who have demonstrated competence may be called upon when appropriate. However, office members must carefully consider the nature of the contact and the

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relationship between the LEP individual and the volunteer to ensure that the volunteer can provide neutral and unbiased assistance.

While family or friends of an LEP individual may offer to assist with communication or interpretation, members should carefully consider the circumstances before relying on such individuals. For example, children should not be relied upon except in exigent or very informal and non-confrontational situations.

330.10 CONTACT AND REPORTING

While all law enforcement contacts, services and individual rights are important, this office will utilize the four-factor analysis to prioritize service to LEP individuals so that such services may be targeted where they are most needed, according to the nature and importance of the particular law enforcement activity involved.

Whenever any member of this office is required to complete a report or other documentation and interpretation services are provided to any involved LEP individual, such services should be noted in the related report. Members should document the type of interpretation services utilized and whether the individual elected to use services provided by the Office or some other identified source.

330.11 RECEIVING AND RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will take reasonable steps and will work with the Department of Human Resources to develop in-house language capacity by hiring or appointing qualified members proficient in languages representative of the community being served.

330.11.1 EMERGENCY CALLS TO 9-1-1

Office members will make every reasonable effort to promptly accommodate LEP individuals utilizing 9-1-1 lines. When a 9-1-1 call-taker receives a call and determines that the caller is an LEP individual, the call-taker shall quickly determine whether sufficient information can be obtained to initiate an appropriate emergency response. If language assistance is still needed, the language is known and a qualified bilingual member is available in Dispatch, the call shall immediately be handled by the qualified bilingual member.

If a qualified bilingual member is not available or the call-taker is unable to identify the caller's language, the call-taker will contact the contracted telephone interpretation service and establish a three-way call between the call-taker, the LEP individual and the interpreter.

Dispatchers will make every reasonable effort to dispatch a qualified bilingual member to the assignment, if available and appropriate.

While 9-1-1 calls shall receive top priority, reasonable efforts should also be made to accommodate LEP individuals seeking routine access to services and information by utilizing the resources listed in this policy.

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330.12 FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Field enforcement will generally include such contacts as traffic stops, pedestrian stops, serving warrants and restraining orders, crowd/traffic control and other routine field contacts that may involve LEP individuals. The scope and nature of these activities and contacts will inevitably vary. Members and/or supervisors must assess each situation to determine the need and availability of language assistance to all involved LEP individuals and utilize the methods outlined in this policy to provide such assistance.

Although not every situation can be addressed in this policy, it is important that members are able to effectively communicate the reason for a contact, the need for information and the meaning or consequences of any enforcement action. For example, it would be meaningless to request consent to search if the deputy is unable to effectively communicate with an LEP individual.

If available, deputies should obtain the assistance of a qualified bilingual member or an authorized interpreter before placing an LEP individual under arrest.

330.13 INVESTIGATIVE FIELD INTERVIEWS

In any situation where an interview may reveal information that could be used as the basis for arrest or prosecution of an LEP individual and a qualified bilingual member is unavailable or lacks the skills to directly communicate with the LEP individual, an authorized interpreter should be used. This includes interviews conducted during an investigation with victims, witnesses and suspects. In such situations, audio recordings of the interviews should be made when reasonably possible. Identification and contact information for the interpreter (e.g., name, address) should be documented so that the person can be subpoenaed for trial if necessary.

If an authorized interpreter is needed, deputies should consider calling for an authorized interpreter in the following order:

- An authorized office member or allied agency interpreter
- An authorized telephone interpreter
- Any other authorized interpreter

Any *Miranda* warnings shall be provided to suspects in their primary language by an authorized interpreter or, if the suspect is literate, by providing a translated *Miranda* warning card.

The use of an LEP individual's bilingual friends, family members, children, neighbors or bystanders may be used only when a qualified bilingual member or authorized interpreter is unavailable and there is an immediate need to interview an LEP individual.

330.14 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS

Miscommunication during custodial interrogations may have a substantial impact on the evidence presented in a criminal prosecution. Only qualified bilingual members or, if none is available or appropriate, authorized interpreters shall be used during custodial interrogations. *Miranda*

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warnings shall be provided to suspects in their primary language by the qualified bilingual member or an authorized interpreter.

In order to ensure that translations during custodial interrogations are accurately documented and are admissible as evidence, interrogations should be recorded whenever reasonably possible. See guidance on recording custodial interrogations in the Investigation and Prosecution Policy.

330.15 BOOKINGS

When gathering information during the booking process, members should remain alert to the impediments that language barriers can create. In the interest of the arrestee's health and welfare, the safety and security of the facility, and to protect individual rights, it is important that accurate medical screening and booking information be obtained. Members should seek the assistance of a qualified bilingual member whenever there is concern that accurate information cannot be obtained or that booking instructions may not be properly understood by an LEP individual.

330.16 COMPLAINTS

The Office shall ensure that LEP individuals who wish to file a complaint regarding members of this office are able to do so. The Office may provide an authorized interpreter or translated forms, as appropriate. Complaints will be referred to the Division Chief/designee.

Investigations into such complaints shall be handled in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy. Authorized interpreters used for any interview with an LEP individual during an investigation should not be members of this office.

Any notice required to be sent to an LEP individual as a complaining party pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy should be translated or otherwise communicated in a language-accessible manner.

330.17 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach programs and other such services offered by this office are important to the ultimate success of more traditional law enforcement duties. This office will continue to work with community groups, local businesses and neighborhoods to provide equal access to such programs and services.

330.18 TRAINING

To ensure that all members who may have contact with LEP individuals are properly trained, the Office will provide periodic training on this policy and related procedures, including how to access office-authorized telephonic and in-person interpreters and other available resources.

The Training Manager shall be responsible for ensuring new members receive LEP training. Those who may have contact with LEP individuals should receive refresher training at least once every two years thereafter. The Training Manager shall maintain records of all LEP training provided, and will retain a copy in each member's training file in accordance with established records retention schedules.

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330.18.1 TRAINING FOR AUTHORIZED INTERPRETERS

All members on the authorized interpreter list must successfully complete prescribed interpreter training. To complete interpreter training successfully, an interpreter must demonstrate proficiency in and ability to communicate information accurately in both English and in the target language, demonstrate knowledge in both languages of any specialized terms or phraseology, and understand and adhere to the interpreter role without deviating into other roles, such as counselor or legal adviser.

Members on the authorized interpreter list must receive refresher training annually or they will be removed from the authorized interpreter list. This annual training should include language skills competency (including specialized terminology) and ethical considerations.

The Training Manager shall be responsible for coordinating the annual refresher training and will maintain a record of all training the interpreters have received.

Communications with Persons with Disabilities

331.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to members when communicating with individuals with disabilities, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, have impaired speech or vision, or are blind.

331.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Auxiliary aids - Tools used to communicate with people who have a disability or impairment. They include but are not limited to, the use of gestures or visual aids to supplement oral communication; a notepad and pen or pencil to exchange written notes; a computer or typewriter; an assistive listening system or device to amplify sound; a teletypewriter (TTY) or videophones (video relay service or VRS); taped text; qualified readers; or a qualified interpreter.

Disability or impairment - A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, including hearing or seeing, regardless of whether the disabled person uses assistive or adaptive devices or auxiliary aids. Individuals who wear ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses are not considered to have a disability (42 USC § 12102).

Qualified interpreter - A person who is able to interpret effectively, accurately and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary. Qualified interpreters include oral interpreters, transliterators, sign language interpreters and intermediary interpreters. Qualified interpreters should be certified pursuant to [RCW 2.42.110](#).

331.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to reasonably ensure that people with disabilities, including victims, witnesses, suspects and arrestees have equal access to law enforcement services, programs and activities. Members must make efforts to communicate effectively with individuals with disabilities.

The Office will not discriminate against or deny any individual access to services, rights or programs based upon disabilities.

331.3 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) COORDINATOR

The Sheriff shall delegate certain responsibilities to an ADA Coordinator (28 CFR 35.107). The ADA Coordinator shall be appointed by, and directly responsible, to the Patrol Division Chief or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the ADA Coordinator shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Working with the County ADA coordinator regarding the Skamania County Sheriff's Office's efforts to ensure equal access to services, programs and activities.
- (b) Developing reports, new procedures, or recommending modifications to this policy.

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- (c) Acting as a liaison with local disability advocacy groups or other disability groups regarding access to office services, programs and activities.
- (d) Ensuring that a list of qualified interpreter services is maintained and available to each Shift Sergeant and Dispatch Supervisor. The list should include information regarding the following:
 - 1. Contact information
 - 2. Availability
- (e) Developing procedures that will enable members to access auxiliary aids or services, including qualified interpreters, and ensure the procedures are available to all members.
- (f) Ensuring signage is posted in appropriate areas, indicating that auxiliary aids are available free of charge to people with disabilities.
- (g) Ensuring appropriate processes are in place to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and inquiries regarding discrimination in access to office services, programs and activities.

331.4 FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Because the nature of any law enforcement contact may vary substantially from one situation to the next, members of this office should consider all information reasonably available to them when determining how to communicate with an individual with a disability. Members should carefully balance all known factors in an effort to reasonably ensure people who are disabled have equal access to services, programs and activities. These factors may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Members should not always assume that effective communication is being achieved. The fact that an individual appears to be nodding in agreement does not always mean he/she completely understands the message. When there is any doubt, members should ask the individual to communicate back or otherwise demonstrate their understanding.
- (b) The nature of the disability (e.g., deafness or blindness vs. hard of hearing or low vision).
- (c) The nature of the law enforcement contact (e.g., emergency vs. non-emergency, custodial vs. consensual contact).
- (d) The availability of auxiliary aids. The fact that a particular aid is not available does not eliminate the obligation to reasonably ensure access. However, in an emergency, availability may factor into the type of aid used.

Communications with Persons with Disabilities

331.5 INITIAL AND IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS

Recognizing that various law enforcement encounters may be potentially volatile and/or emotionally charged, members should remain alert to the possibility of communication problems.

Members should exercise special care in the use of all gestures, and verbal and written communication to minimize initial confusion and misunderstanding when dealing with any individual with known or suspected disabilities.

In a non-emergency situation, when a member knows or suspects an individual requires assistance to effectively communicate, the member shall identify the individual's choice of auxiliary aid or service.

The individual's preferred communication method must be honored unless another effective method of communication exists under the circumstances (28 CFR 35.160).

Factors to consider when determining whether an alternative method is effective include:

- (a) The methods of communication usually used by the individual.
- (b) The nature, length and complexity of the communication involved.
- (c) The context of the communication.

In emergency situations involving an imminent threat to the safety or welfare of any person, members may use whatever auxiliary aids and services that reasonably appear effective under the circumstances. This may include, for example, exchanging written notes or using the services of a person who knows sign language but is not a qualified interpreter, even if the person who is deaf or hard of hearing would prefer a qualified sign language interpreter or another appropriate auxiliary aid or service. Once the emergency has ended, the continued method of communication should be reconsidered. The member should inquire as to the individual's preference and give primary consideration to that preference.

If an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing or has impaired speech must be handcuffed while in the custody of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, consideration should be given, safety permitting, to placing the handcuffs in the front of the body to facilitate communication using sign language or writing.

331.6 TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Skamania County Sheriff's Office members shall never refuse to assist an individual with disabilities who is requesting assistance. The Office will not charge anyone to receive auxiliary aids, nor shall they require anyone to furnish their own auxiliary aid or service as a condition for receiving assistance. The Office will make every reasonable effort to provide equal access and timely assistance to individuals who are disabled through a variety of services.

A person who is disabled may choose to accept office-provided auxiliary aids or services or they may choose to provide their own.

Communications with Persons with Disabilities

Office-provided auxiliary aids or services may include, but are not limited to, the assistance methods described in this policy.

331.7 AUDIO RECORDINGS AND ENLARGED PRINT

The Office may develop audio recordings to assist people who are blind or have a visual impairment with accessing important information. If such a recording is not available, members may read aloud from the appropriate form, for example a personnel complaint form, or provide forms with enlarged print.

331.8 QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS

A qualified interpreter may be needed in lengthy or complex transactions (e.g., interviewing a victim, witness, suspect or arrestee), if the individual to be interviewed normally relies on sign language or speechreading (lip-reading) to understand what others are saying. The qualified interpreter should not be a person with an interest in the case or the investigation. A person providing interpretation services may be required to establish the accuracy and trustworthiness of the interpretation in a court proceeding.

Qualified interpreters should be:

- (a) Available within a reasonable amount of time but in no event longer than one hour if requested.
- (b) Experienced in providing interpretation services related to law enforcement matters.
- (c) Familiar with the use of VRS and/or video remote interpreting services.
- (d) Certified in either American Sign Language (ASL) or Signed English (SE).
- (e) Able to understand and adhere to the interpreter role without deviating into other roles, such as counselor or legal adviser.
- (f) Knowledgeable of the ethical issues involved when providing interpreter services.

Members should use office-approved procedures to request a qualified interpreter at the earliest reasonable opportunity, and/or as soon practicable, generally not more than 15 minutes after a request for an interpreter has been made or it is reasonably apparent that an interpreter is needed. No individual who is disabled shall be required to provide his/her own interpreter (28 CFR 35.160).

331.9 TTY AND RELAY SERVICES

In situations where an individual without a disability would have access to a telephone (e.g., booking or attorney contacts), members must also provide those who are deaf, hard of hearing or have impaired speech the opportunity to place calls using an available TTY (also known as a telecommunications device for deaf people, or TDD). Members shall provide additional time, as needed, for effective communication due to the slower nature of TTY and TDD communications.

The Office will accept all TTY or TDD calls placed by those who are deaf or hard of hearing and received via a telecommunications relay service (28 CFR 35.162).

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Note that relay services translate verbatim, so the conversation must be conducted as if speaking directly to the caller.

331.10 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Interpreter services may be available from community volunteers who have demonstrated competence in communication services, such as ASL or SE, and have been approved by the Office to provide interpreter services.

Where qualified interpreters are unavailable to assist, approved community volunteers who have demonstrated competence may be called upon when appropriate. However, office members must carefully consider the nature of the contact and the relationship between the individual with the disability and the volunteer to ensure that the volunteer can provide neutral and unbiased assistance.

331.11 FAMILY AND FRIENDS

While family or friends may offer to assist with interpretation, members should carefully consider the circumstances before relying on such individuals. The nature of the contact and relationship between the individual with the disability and the person offering services must be carefully considered (e.g., victim/suspect).

Children shall not be relied upon except in emergency or critical situations when there is no qualified interpreter reasonably available.

Adults may be relied upon when (28 CFR 35.160):

- (a) There is an emergency or critical situation and there is no qualified interpreter reasonably available.
- (b) The person with the disability requests that the adult interpret or facilitate communication and the adult agrees to provide such assistance, and reliance on that adult for such assistance is reasonable under the circumstances.

331.12 REPORTING

Whenever any member of this office is required to complete a report or other documentation, and communication assistance has been provided, such services should be noted in the related report. Members should document the type of communication services utilized and whether the individual elected to use services provided by the Office or some other identified source. If the individual's express preference is not honored, the member must document why another method of communication was used.

All written communications exchanged in a criminal case shall be attached to the report or placed into evidence.

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331.13 FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Field enforcement will generally include such contacts as traffic stops, pedestrian stops, serving warrants and restraining orders, crowd/traffic control and other routine field contacts that may involve individuals with disabilities. The scope and nature of these activities and contacts will inevitably vary.

The Office recognizes that it would be virtually impossible to provide immediate access to complete communication services to every member of this office. Members and/or supervisors must assess each situation and consider the length, complexity and importance of the communication, as well as the individual's preferred method of communication, when determining the type of resources to use and whether a qualified interpreter is needed.

Although not every situation can be addressed in this policy, it is important that members are able to effectively communicate the reason for a contact, the need for information and the meaning or consequences of any enforcement action. For example, it would be meaningless to verbally request consent to search if the deputy is unable to effectively communicate with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires communications assistance.

If available, deputies should obtain the assistance of a qualified interpreter before placing an individual with a disability under arrest. Individuals who are arrested and are assisted by service animals should be permitted to make arrangements for the care of such animals prior to transport.

331.13.1 FIELD RESOURCES

Examples of methods that may be sufficient for transactions, such as checking a license or giving directions to a location or for urgent situations such as responding to a violent crime in progress, may, depending on the circumstances, include such simple things as:

- (a) Hand gestures or visual aids with an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing or has impaired speech.
- (b) Exchange of written notes or communications.
- (c) Verbal communication with an individual who can speechread by facing the individual and speaking slowly and clearly.
- (d) Use of computer, word processing, personal communication device or similar device to exchange texts or notes.
- (e) Slowly and clearly speaking or reading simple terms to individuals who have a visual or mental impairment.

Members should be aware that these techniques may not provide effective communication as required by law and this policy depending on the circumstances.

331.14 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS

In an effort to ensure that the rights of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairment are protected during a custodial interrogation, this office will provide interpreter services before beginning an interrogation, unless exigent circumstances exist. The use of a video

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remote interpreting service should be considered, where appropriate, if a live interpreter is not available. *Miranda* warnings shall be provided to suspects who are deaf or hard of hearing by a qualified interpreter.

In order to ensure that communications during custodial investigations are accurately documented and are admissible as evidence, interrogations should be recorded whenever reasonably possible. See guidance on recording custodial interrogations in the Investigation and Prosecution Policy.

331.15 ARRESTS AND BOOKINGS

If an individual with speech or hearing disabilities is arrested, the arresting deputy shall use office-approved procedures to provide a qualified interpreter at the place of arrest or booking as soon as reasonably practicable, unless the individual indicates that he/she prefers a different auxiliary aid or service or the deputy reasonably determines another effective method of communication exists under the circumstances.

When gathering information during the booking process, members should remain alert to the impediments that often exist when communicating with those who are deaf, hard of hearing, who have impaired speech or vision, are blind, or have other disabilities. In the interest of the arrestee's health and welfare, the safety and security of the facility and to protect individual rights, it is important that accurate medical screening and booking information be obtained. If necessary, members should seek the assistance of a qualified interpreter whenever there is concern that accurate information cannot be obtained or that booking instructions may not be properly understood by the individual.

Individuals who require and possess personally owned communication aids (e.g., hearing aids, cochlear processors) should be permitted to retain them while in custody.

331.16 COMPLAINTS

The Office shall ensure that individuals with disabilities who wish to file a complaint regarding members of this office are able to do so. The Office may provide a qualified interpreter or forms in enlarged print, as appropriate. Complaints will be referred to the office ADA Coordinator.

Investigations into such complaints shall be handled in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy. Qualified interpreters used during the investigation of a complaint should not be members of this office.

331.17 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach programs and other such services offered by this office are important to the ultimate success of more traditional law enforcement duties. This office will continue to work with community groups, local businesses and neighborhoods to provide equal access to such programs and services.

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331.18 TRAINING

To ensure that all members who may have contact with individuals who are disabled are properly trained, the Office will provide periodic training that should include:

- (a) Awareness and understanding of this policy and related procedures, related forms and available resources.
- (b) Procedures for accessing qualified interpreters and other available resources.
- (c) Working with in-person and telephone interpreters and related equipment.

The Training Manager shall be responsible for ensuring new members receive training related to interacting with individuals who have disabilities, including individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, who have impaired speech or vision, or are blind. Those who may have contact with such individuals should receive refresher training at least once every two years thereafter. The Training Manager shall maintain records of all training provided, and will retain a copy in each member's training file in accordance with established records retention schedules.

331.18.1 CALL-TAKER TRAINING

Emergency call-takers shall be trained in the use of TTY equipment protocols for communicating with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have speech impairments. Such training and information should include:

- (a) The requirements of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act for telephone emergency service providers.
- (b) ASL syntax and accepted abbreviations.
- (c) Practical instruction on identifying and processing TTY or TDD calls, including the importance of recognizing silent TTY or TDD calls, using proper syntax, abbreviations and protocol when responding to TTY or TDD calls.
- (d) Hands-on experience in TTY and TDD communications, including identification of TTY or TDD tones.

Training should be mandatory for all Dispatch members who may have contact with individuals from the public who are deaf, hard of hearing or have impaired speech. Refresher training should occur every six months.

Chaplains

332.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines for Skamania County Sheriff's Office chaplains to provide counseling or emotional support to members of the Office, their families and members of the public (RCW 41.22.030; RCW 41.22.040).

332.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall ensure that office chaplains are properly appointed, trained and supervised to carry out their responsibilities without financial compensation.

332.3 ELIGIBILITY

Requirements for participation as a chaplain for the Office may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Being above reproach, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, be free from addiction to alcohol or other drugs, and excessive debt.
- (b) Managing their households, families and personal affairs well.
- (c) Having a good reputation in the community.
- (d) Successful completion of an appropriate-level background investigation.
- (e) A minimum of five years of successful counseling experience.
- (f) Possess certification of being an ordained minister or equivalent.
- (g) Possession of a valid driver license.

The Sheriff may apply exceptions for eligibility based on organizational needs and the qualifications of the individual.

332.4 RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall endeavor to recruit and appoint only those applicants who meet the high ethical, moral and professional standards set forth by this office.

All applicants shall be required to meet and pass the same pre-employment procedures as office personnel before appointment.

332.4.1 RECRUITMENT

Chaplains should be recruited on a continuous and ongoing basis consistent with office policy on equal opportunity and nondiscriminatory employment. A primary qualification for participation in the application process should be an interest in and an ability to assist the Office in serving the public. Chaplain candidates are encouraged to participate in ride-alongs with office members before and during the selection process.

Chaplains

332.4.2 SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

Chaplain candidates shall successfully complete the following process prior to appointment as a chaplain:

- (a) Submit the appropriate written application.
- (b) Include a recommendation from employers or volunteer programs.
- (c) Interview with the Sheriff and the chaplain coordinator.
- (d) Successfully complete an appropriate-level background investigation.
- (e) Complete an appropriate probationary period as designated by the Sheriff.

Chaplains are volunteers and serve at the discretion of the Sheriff. Chaplains shall have no property interest in continued appointment. However, if a chaplain is removed for alleged misconduct, the chaplain will be afforded an opportunity solely to clear his/her name through a liberty interest hearing, which shall be limited to a single appearance before the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

332.5 IDENTIFICATION AND UNIFORMS

As representatives of the Office, chaplains are responsible for presenting a professional image to the community. Chaplains shall dress appropriately for the conditions and performance of their duties. Uniforms and necessary safety equipment will be provided for each chaplain. Identification symbols worn by chaplains shall be different and distinct from those worn by deputies through the inclusion of "Chaplain" on the uniform and not reflect any religious affiliation.

Chaplains will be issued Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification cards, which must be carried at all times while on-duty. The identification cards will be the standard Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification cards, with the exception that "Chaplain" will be indicated on the cards. Chaplains shall be required to return any issued uniforms or office property at the termination of service.

Chaplains shall conform to all uniform regulations and appearance standards of this office.

332.6 CHAPLAIN COORDINATOR

The Sheriff shall delegate certain responsibilities to a chaplain coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Administration Division Chief or the authorized designee.

The chaplain coordinator shall serve as the liaison between the chaplains and the Sheriff. The function of the coordinator is to provide a central coordinating point for effective chaplain management within the Office, and to direct and assist efforts to jointly provide more productive chaplain services. Under the general direction of the Sheriff or the authorized designee, chaplains shall report to the chaplain coordinator and/or Shift Sergeant.

The chaplain coordinator may appoint a senior chaplain or other designee to assist in the coordination of chaplains and their activities.

Chaplains

The responsibilities of the coordinator or the authorized designee include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Recruiting, selecting and training qualified chaplains.
- (b) Conducting chaplain meetings.
- (c) Establishing and maintaining a chaplain callout roster.
- (d) Maintaining records for each chaplain.
- (e) Tracking and evaluating the contribution of chaplains.
- (f) Maintaining a record of chaplain schedules and work hours.
- (g) Completing and disseminating, as appropriate, all necessary paperwork and information.
- (h) Planning periodic recognition events.
- (i) Maintaining liaison with other agency chaplain coordinators.

An evaluation of the overall use of chaplains will be conducted on an annual basis by the coordinator.

332.7 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaplains assist the Office, its members and the community, as needed. Assignments of chaplains will usually be to augment the Patrol Division. Chaplains may be assigned to other areas within the Office as needed. Chaplains should be placed only in assignments or programs that are consistent with their knowledge, skills, abilities and the needs of the Office.

All chaplains will be assigned to duties by the chaplain coordinator or the authorized designee.

Chaplains may not proselytize or attempt to recruit members of the Office or the public into a religious affiliation while representing themselves as chaplains with this office. If there is any question as to the receiving person's intent, chaplains should verify that the person is desirous of spiritual counseling or guidance before engaging in such discussion.

Chaplains may not accept gratuities for any service or any subsequent actions or follow-up contacts that were provided while functioning as a chaplain for the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

332.7.1 COMPLIANCE

Chaplains are volunteer members of this office, and except as otherwise specified within this policy, are required to comply with the Volunteer Program Policy and other applicable policies.

332.7.2 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- (a) Chaplains will be scheduled to be on-call for a period of seven consecutive days during each month, beginning on Monday and ending on the following Sunday.
- (b) Generally, each chaplain will serve with Skamania County Sheriff's Office personnel a minimum of eight hours per month.

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Chaplains

- (c) At the end of each watch the chaplain will complete a chaplain shift report and submit it to the Sheriff or the authorized designee.
- (d) Chaplains shall be permitted to ride with deputies during any shift and observe Skamania County Sheriff's Office operations, provided the Shift Sergeant has been notified and has approved the activity.
- (e) Chaplains shall not be evaluators of members of the Office.
- (f) In responding to incidents, a chaplain shall never function as a deputy.
- (g) When responding to in-progress calls for service, chaplains may be required to stand-by in a secure area until the situation has been deemed safe.
- (h) Chaplains shall serve only within the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office unless otherwise authorized by the Sheriff or the authorized designee.
- (i) Each chaplain shall have access to current office member rosters, addresses, telephone numbers, duty assignments and other information that may assist in his/her duties. Such information will be considered confidential and each chaplain will exercise appropriate security measures to prevent distribution of the data.

332.7.3 ASSISTING OFFICE MEMBERS

The responsibilities of a chaplain related to office members include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Assisting in making notification to families of members who have been seriously injured or killed and, after notification, responding to the hospital or home of the member.
- (b) Visiting sick or injured members in the hospital or at home.
- (c) Attending and participating, when requested, in funerals of active or retired members.
- (d) Serving as a resource for members when dealing with the public in incidents, such as accidental deaths, suicides, suicidal subjects, serious accidents, drug and alcohol abuse and other such situations that may arise.
- (e) Providing counseling and support for members and their families.
- (f) Being alert to the needs of members and their families.

332.7.4 ASSISTING THE OFFICE

The responsibilities of a chaplain related to this office include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Assisting members in the diffusion of a conflict or incident, when requested.
- (b) Responding to natural and accidental deaths, suicides and attempted suicides, family disturbances and any other incident that in the judgment of the Shift Sergeant or supervisor aids in accomplishing the mission of the Office.
- (c) Responding to all major disasters, such as natural disasters, bombings and similar critical incidents.
- (d) Being on-call and, if possible, on-duty during major demonstrations or any public function that requires the presence of a large number of office members.

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Chaplains

- (e) Attending office and academy graduations, ceremonies and social events and offering invocations and benedictions, as requested.
- (f) Participating in in-service training classes.
- (g) Willingness to train others to enhance the effectiveness of the Office.

332.7.5 ASSISTING THE COMMUNITY

The duties of a chaplain related to the community include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Fostering familiarity with the role of law enforcement in the community.
- (b) Providing an additional link between the community, other chaplain coordinators and the Office.
- (c) Providing liaison with various civic, business and religious organizations.
- (d) Promptly facilitating requests for representatives or leaders of various denominations.
- (e) Assisting the community in any other function as needed or requested.
- (f) Making referrals in cases where specialized attention is needed or in cases that are beyond the chaplain's ability to assist.

332.7.6 CHAPLAIN MEETINGS

All chaplains are required to attend scheduled meetings. Any absences must be satisfactorily explained to the chaplain coordinator.

332.8 PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

No person who provides chaplain services to members of the Office may work or volunteer for the Skamania County Sheriff's Office in any capacity other than that of chaplain.

Office chaplains shall be familiar with state evidentiary laws and rules pertaining to the limits of the clergy-penitent, psychotherapist-patient and other potentially applicable privileges and shall inform members when it appears reasonably likely that the member is discussing matters that are not subject to privileged communications. In such cases, the chaplain should consider referring the member to a non-office counseling resource.

No chaplain shall provide counsel to or receive confidential communications from any Skamania County Sheriff's Office member concerning an incident personally witnessed by the chaplain or concerning an incident involving the chaplain.

See [RCW 5.60.060](#)

332.9 TRAINING

The Office will establish a minimum number of training hours and standards for office chaplains. The training, as approved by the Training Manager, may include:

- Stress management
- Death notifications

Chaplains

- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- Burnout for members of law enforcement and chaplains
- Legal liability and confidentiality
- Ethics
- Responding to crisis situations
- The law enforcement family
- Substance abuse
- Suicide
- Deputy injury or death
- Sensitivity and diversity

Public Safety Video Surveillance System

333.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for the placement and monitoring of office public safety video surveillance, as well as the storage and release of the captured images.

This policy only applies to overt, marked public safety video surveillance systems operated by the Office. It does not apply to mobile audio/video systems, covert audio/video systems or any other image-capturing devices used by the Office.

333.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office operates a public safety video surveillance system to complement its anti-crime strategy, to effectively allocate and deploy personnel, and to enhance public safety and security in public areas. Cameras may be placed in strategic locations throughout the County to detect and deter crime, to help safeguard against potential threats to the public, to help manage emergency response situations during natural and man-made disasters and to assist County officials in providing services to the community.

Video surveillance in public areas will be conducted in a legal and ethical manner while recognizing and protecting constitutional standards of privacy.

333.3 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Only office-approved video surveillance equipment shall be utilized. Members authorized to monitor video surveillance equipment should only monitor public areas and public activities where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists. The Sheriff or the authorized designee shall approve all proposed locations for the use of video surveillance technology and should consult with and be guided by legal counsel as necessary in making such determinations.

333.3.1 PLACEMENT AND MONITORING

Camera placement will be guided by the underlying purpose or strategy associated with the overall video surveillance plan. As appropriate, the Sheriff should confer with other affected County divisions and designated community groups when evaluating camera placement. Environmental factors, including lighting, location of buildings, presence of vegetation or other obstructions, should also be evaluated when determining placement.

Cameras shall only record video images and not sound. Recorded images may be used for a variety of purposes, including criminal investigations and monitoring of activity around high-value or high-threat areas. The public safety video surveillance system may be useful for the following purposes:

- (a) To prevent, deter and identify criminal activity.
- (b) To target identified areas of gang and narcotics complaints or activity.
- (c) To respond to critical incidents.

Public Safety Video Surveillance System

- (d) To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.
- (e) To document deputy and offender conduct during interactions to safeguard the rights of the public and deputies.
- (f) To augment resources in a cost-effective manner.
- (g) To monitor pedestrian and vehicle traffic activity.

Images from each camera should be recorded in a manner consistent with the underlying purpose of the particular camera. Images should be transmitted to monitors installed in the Shift Sergeant's office and Dispatch. When activity warranting further investigation is reported or detected at any camera location, the available information should be provided to responding deputies in a timely manner. The Shift Sergeant or trained Dispatch personnel are authorized to adjust the cameras to more effectively view a particular area for any legitimate public safety purpose.

The Sheriff may authorize video feeds from the public safety video surveillance system to be forwarded to a specified location for monitoring by other than sheriff's personnel, such as allied government agencies, road or traffic crews, or fire or emergency operations personnel.

Unauthorized recording, viewing, reproduction, dissemination or retention is prohibited.

333.3.2 CAMERA MARKINGS

All public areas monitored by public safety surveillance equipment shall be marked in a conspicuous manner with appropriate signs to inform the public that the area is under sheriff's surveillance. Signs should be well lit, placed appropriately and without obstruction to ensure visibility.

333.3.3 INTEGRATION WITH OTHER TECHNOLOGY

The Office may elect to integrate its public safety video surveillance system with other technology to enhance available information. Systems such as gunshot detection, incident mapping, crime analysis, license plate recognition, facial recognition and other video-based analytical systems may be considered based upon availability and the nature of office strategy.

The Office should evaluate the availability and propriety of networking or otherwise collaborating with appropriate private sector entities and should evaluate whether the use of certain camera systems, such as pan-tilt-zoom systems and video enhancement or other analytical technology, requires additional safeguards.

333.4 VIDEO SUPERVISION

Supervisors should monitor video surveillance access and usage to ensure members are within office policy and applicable laws. Supervisors should ensure such use and access is appropriately documented.

333.4.1 VIDEO LOG

A log should be maintained at all locations where video surveillance monitors are located. The log should be used to document all persons not assigned to the monitoring locations who have

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been given access to view or monitor images provided by the video surveillance cameras. The logs should, at a minimum, record the:

- (a) Date and time access was given.
- (b) Name and agency of the person being given access to the images.
- (c) Name of person authorizing access.
- (d) Identifiable portion of images viewed.

333.4.2 PROHIBITED ACTIVITY

Public safety video surveillance systems will not intentionally be used to invade the privacy of individuals or observe areas where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.

Public safety video surveillance equipment shall not be used in an unequal or discriminatory manner and shall not target individuals or groups based solely on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.

Video surveillance equipment shall not be used to harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.

333.5 STORAGE AND RETENTION OF MEDIA

All downloaded media shall be stored in a secure area with access restricted to authorized persons. A recording needed as evidence shall be copied to a suitable medium and booked into evidence in accordance with established evidence procedures. All actions taken with respect to retention of media shall be appropriately documented.

The type of video surveillance technology employed and the manner in which recordings are used and stored will affect retention periods. The recordings should be stored and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

333.5.1 EVIDENTIARY INTEGRITY

All downloaded and retained media shall be treated in the same manner as other evidence. Media shall be accessed, maintained, stored and retrieved in a manner that ensures its integrity as evidence, including strict adherence to chain of custody requirements. Electronic trails, including encryption, digital masking of innocent or uninvolved individuals to preserve anonymity, authenticity certificates and date and time stamping, shall be used as appropriate to preserve individual rights and to ensure the authenticity and maintenance of a secure evidentiary chain of custody.

333.6 RELEASE OF VIDEO IMAGES

All recorded video images gathered by the public safety video surveillance equipment are for the official use of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

Requests for recorded video images from the public or the media shall be processed in the same manner as requests for office public records.

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Requests for recorded images from other law enforcement agencies shall be referred to the Shift Sergeant for release in accordance with a specific and legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Recorded video images that are the subject of a court order or subpoena shall be processed in accordance with the established office subpoena process.

333.7 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AUDIT

The Sheriff or the authorized designee will conduct an annual review of the public safety video surveillance system. The review should include an analysis of the cost, benefit and effectiveness of the system, including any public safety issues that were effectively addressed or any significant prosecutions that resulted, and any systemic operational or administrative issues that were identified, including those related to training, discipline or policy.

The results of each review shall be appropriately documented and maintained by the Sheriff or the authorized designee and other applicable advisory bodies. Any recommendations for training or policy should be promptly addressed.

333.8 TRAINING

All office members authorized to operate or access public video surveillance systems shall receive appropriate training. Training should include guidance on the use of cameras, interaction with dispatch and patrol operations and a review regarding relevant policies and procedures, including this policy. Training should also address state and federal law related to the use of video surveillance equipment and privacy.

Child and Dependent Adult Safety

334.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to ensure that children and dependent adults are not left without appropriate care in the event their caregiver or guardian is arrested or otherwise prevented from providing care due to actions taken by members of this office.

This policy does not address the actions to be taken during the course of a child abuse or dependent adult investigation. These are covered in the Child Abuse **policy 315**, and Adult Abuse **policy 313**.

334.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to mitigate, to the extent reasonably possible, the stressful experience individuals may have when their parent or caregiver is arrested. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will endeavor to create a strong cooperative relationship with local, state and community-based social services to ensure an effective, collaborative response that addresses the needs of those affected, including call-out availability and follow-up responsibilities.

334.3 PROCEDURES DURING AN ARREST

When encountering an arrest or prolonged detention situation, deputies should make reasonable attempts to determine if the arrestee is responsible for children or dependent adults. In some cases this may be obvious, such as when children or dependent adults are present. However, deputies should inquire if the arrestee has caregiver responsibilities for any children or dependent adults who are without appropriate supervision. The following steps should be taken:

- (a) Inquire about and confirm the location of any children or dependent adults.
- (b) Look for evidence of children and dependent adults. Deputies should be mindful that some arrestees may conceal the fact that they have a dependent for fear the individual may be taken from them.
- (c) Consider inquiring of witnesses, neighbors, friends and relatives of the arrestee as to whether the person is responsible for a child or dependent adult.

Whenever reasonably possible, deputies should take reasonable steps to accomplish the arrest of a parent, guardian or caregiver out of the presence of his/her child or dependent adult. Removing children or dependent adults from the scene in advance of the arrest will generally ensure the best outcome for the individual.

Whenever it is safe to do so, deputies should allow the parent or caregiver to assure children or dependent adults that they will be provided care. If this is not safe or if the demeanor of the parent or caregiver suggests this conversation would be non-productive, the deputy at the scene should explain the reason for the arrest in age-appropriate language and offer reassurance to the child or dependent adult that he/she will receive appropriate care.

Child and Dependent Adult Safety

334.3.1 AFTER AN ARREST

Whenever an arrest is made, the deputy should take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the arrestee's disclosed or discovered, children or dependent adults.

Deputies should allow the arrestee reasonable time to arrange for care of children and dependent adults. Temporary placement with family or friends may be appropriate. However, any decision should give priority to a care solution that is in the best interest of the child or dependent adult. In such cases the following guidelines should be followed:

- (a) Allow the person reasonable time to arrange for the care of children and dependent adults with a responsible party, as appropriate.
 - 1. Deputies should consider allowing the person to use his/her cell phone to facilitate arrangements through access to contact phone numbers, and to lessen the likelihood of call screening by the recipients due to calls from unknown sources.
- (b) Unless there is evidence to the contrary (e.g., signs of abuse, drug use, unsafe environment), deputies should respect the parent or caregiver's judgment regarding arrangements for care. It is generally best if the child or dependent adult remains with relatives or family friends that he/she knows and trusts because familiarity with surroundings and consideration for comfort, emotional state and safety are important.
 - 1. Except when a court order exists limiting contact, the deputy should attempt to locate and place children or dependent adults with the non-arrested parent, guardian or caregiver.
- (c) Provide for the immediate supervision of children or dependent adults until an appropriate caregiver arrives.
- (d) Notify the Department of Social and Health Services, if appropriate.
- (e) Notify the field supervisor or Shift Sergeant of the disposition of children and dependent adults.

If children or dependent adults are at school or another known location outside the household at the time of arrest, the arresting deputy should attempt to contact the school or other known location and inform the principal or appropriate responsible adult of the caregiver's arrest and of the arrangements being made for the care of the arrestee's dependent. The result of such actions should be documented in the associated report.

Deputies shall promptly notify Child Protective Services (CPS) whenever a child under 13 years of age is present in a vehicle and his/her parent, guardian or legal custodian is arrested for a drug or alcohol driving offense in accordance with the office Child Abuse Policy ([RCW 26.44.250](#)).

334.3.2 DURING THE BOOKING PROCESS

During the booking process, the arrestee shall be allowed to make additional telephone calls to relatives or other responsible individuals as is reasonably necessary to arrange for the care of any child or dependent adult. These telephone calls should be given as soon as practicable and are in addition to any other telephone calls allowed by law.

Child and Dependent Adult Safety

If an arrestee is unable to resolve the care of any child or dependent adult through this process, a supervisor should be contacted to determine the appropriate steps to arrange for care. These steps may include additional telephone calls or contacting a local, county or state services agency.

334.3.3 REPORTING

- (a) For all arrests where children are present or living in the household, the reporting member will document the following information:
 - 1. Name
 - 2. Sex
 - 3. Age
 - 4. Special needs (e.g., medical, mental health)
 - 5. How, where and with whom or which agency the child was placed
 - 6. Identities and contact information for other potential caregivers
 - 7. Notifications made to other adults (e.g., schools, relatives)
- (b) For all arrests where dependent adults are present or living in the household, the reporting member will document the following information:
 - 1. Name
 - 2. Sex
 - 3. Age
 - 4. Whether he/she reasonably appears able to care for him/herself
 - 5. Disposition or placement information if he/she is unable to care for him/herself

334.3.4 SUPPORT AND COUNSELING REFERRAL

If, in the judgment of the handling deputies, the child or dependent adult would benefit from additional assistance, such as counseling services, contact with a victim advocate or a crisis telephone number, the appropriate referral information may be provided.

334.4 DEPENDENT WELFARE SERVICES

Whenever an arrestee is unwilling or incapable of arranging for the appropriate care of any child or dependent adult, the handling deputy should contact the appropriate welfare service or other office-approved social service to determine whether protective custody is appropriate.

Only when other reasonable options are exhausted should a child or dependent adult be transported to the sheriff's facility, transported in a marked law enforcement vehicle or taken into formal protective custody.

Under no circumstances should a child or dependent adult be left unattended or without appropriate care.

Child and Dependent Adult Safety

334.5 TRAINING

The Training Manager is responsible to ensure that all members of this office who may be involved in arrests affecting children or dependent adults receive approved training on effective safety measures when a parent, guardian or caregiver is arrested.

Service Animals

335.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Service animals play an important role in helping to overcome the limitations often faced by people with disabilities. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes this need and is committed to making reasonable modifications to its policies, practices, and procedures in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to permit the use of service animals that are individually trained to assist a person with a disability.

335.2 SERVICE ANIMALS

Washington State [**RCW 70.84.021**](#) defines a Service Animal as an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person's sensory, mental, or physical disability.

The ADA defines a service animal as any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the owner's disability (28 CFR 35.104).

335.2.1 USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

Some service animals may be readily identifiable. However, many do not have a distinctive symbol, harness or collar. Service animals are not pets and may be trained by an individual or organization to assist people with disabilities.

Examples of how service animals may be used to provide assistance include:

- Guiding people who are blind or have low vision.
- Alerting people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Retrieving or picking up items, opening doors, or flipping switches for people who have limited use of their hands, arms or legs.
- Pulling wheelchairs.
- Providing physical support and assisting with stability and balance.
- Doing work or performing tasks for persons with traumatic brain injury, intellectual disabilities, or psychiatric disabilities, such as reminding a person with depression to take medication.
- Alerting a person with anxiety to the onset of panic attacks, providing tactile stimulation to calm a person with post-traumatic stress disorder, assisting people with schizophrenia to distinguish between hallucinations and reality, and helping people with traumatic brain injury to locate misplaced items or follow daily routines.

Service Animals

335.3 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Service animals that are assisting individuals with disabilities are permitted in all public facilities and areas where the general public is allowed. Office members are expected to treat individuals with service animals with the same courtesy and respect that the Skamania County Sheriff's Office affords to all members of the public.

If an animal exhibits vicious behavior, poses a direct threat to the health of others or unreasonably disrupts or interferes with normal business operations, a deputy may direct the owner to remove the animal from the premises. Barking alone is not a threat nor does a direct threat exist if the person takes prompt, effective action to control the animal. Each incident must be considered individually and past incidents alone are not cause for excluding a service animal. Removal of a service animal may not be used as a reason to refuse service to an individual with disabilities. Members of this office are expected to provide all services as are reasonably available to an individual with a disability.

If it is apparent or if the deputy is aware the animal is a service animal, the owner should not be asked any questions as to the status of the animal. If it is unclear whether an animal meets the definition of a service animal, the deputy should ask the individual only the following questions:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What task or service has the service animal been trained to perform?

If the individual explains that the animal is required because of a disability and has been trained to work or perform at least one task, the animal meets the definition of a service animal and no further questions as to the animal's status should be asked. The person should not be questioned about his/her disabilities nor should the person be asked to provide any license, certification or identification card for the service animal.

Service animals are not pets. Office members should not interfere with the important work performed by a service animal by talking to, petting or otherwise initiating contact with a service animal.

When handling calls of a complaint regarding a service animal, members of this office should remain neutral and should be prepared to explain the ADA requirements concerning service animals to the concerned parties. Businesses are required to allow service animals to accompany their owner into all areas that other customers or members of the public are allowed.

Absent a violation of law independent of the ADA, deputies should take no enforcement action beyond keeping the peace. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against as a result of a disability should be referred to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Volunteer Program

336.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this office to use qualified volunteers for specified tasks and duties in order to create efficiencies for the Office and improve services to the community. Volunteers are intended to supplement and support, rather than supplant, sworn deputies and civilian personnel. Volunteers can be an important part of any organization and have proven to be a valuable asset to law enforcement agencies. Volunteers help to increase office responsiveness, delivery of services and information input, and provide new program opportunities. In addition, volunteers bring new skills and expertise to the Office and prompt new enthusiasm.

336.1.1 DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEER

An individual who performs a service for the Office without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered. This may include unpaid chaplains, unpaid reserve deputies, interns, persons providing administrative support and youth involved in a law enforcement Explorer Post, among others.

336.2 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

336.2.1 VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR/DESIGNEE

The Volunteer Coordinator or designee shall be appointed by the Administration Division Chief. The function of the Volunteer Coordinator or designee is to provide a central coordinating point for effective volunteer management within the Office, and to direct and assist staff and volunteer efforts to jointly provide more productive services. The Volunteer Coordinator or designee should work with other Office staff on an ongoing basis to assist in the development and implementation of volunteer-staffed positions.

The Volunteer Coordinator, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Recruiting, selecting and training qualified volunteers for various positions.
- (b) Facilitating the implementation of new volunteer activities and assignments.
- (c) Maintaining records for each volunteer.
- (d) Tracking and evaluating the contribution of volunteers.
- (e) Maintaining the volunteer handbook and outlining expectations, policies and responsibilities for all volunteers.
- (f) Maintaining a record of volunteer schedules and work hours.
- (g) Completion and dissemination as appropriate of all necessary paperwork and information.
- (h) Planning periodic recognition events.
- (i) Administering discipline when warranted.

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- (j) Maintaining liaison with other volunteer-utilizing programs in the community and assisting in community-wide efforts to recognize and promote volunteering.

336.2.2 RECRUITMENT

Volunteers should be recruited on a continuous and ongoing basis consistent with office policy on equal opportunity nondiscriminatory employment. A primary qualification for participation in the application process should be an interest in, and an ability to assist the Office in serving the public.

Requests for volunteers should be submitted in writing by interested staff to the Volunteer Coordinator or designee through the requester's immediate supervisor. A complete position description and a requested time frame should be included in the request. All parties should understand that the recruitment of volunteers is enhanced by creative and interesting assignments. The Volunteer Coordinator or designee may withhold assignment of any volunteer until such time as the requesting unit is prepared to make effective use of volunteer resources.

336.2.3 SCREENING

All prospective volunteers should complete the volunteer application form. The Volunteer Coordinator or designee should conduct a face-to-face interview with an applicant under consideration.

A documented background investigation shall be completed on each volunteer applicant and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (a) Traffic and criminal background check. Fingerprints shall be obtained from all applicants and applicants shall be processed for criminal history.
- (b) Employment.
- (c) References.
- (d) Credit check.

A polygraph exam may be required of each applicant depending on the type of assignment.

336.2.4 SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

Service as a volunteer with the Office shall begin with an official notice of acceptance or appointment to a volunteer position. Notice may only be given by an authorized representative of the Office, who will normally be the Volunteer Coordinator/designee. No volunteer should begin any assignment until they have been officially accepted for that position and completed all required screening and paperwork. At the time of final acceptance, each volunteer should complete all required enrollment paperwork and will receive a copy of their position description and agreement of service with the Office. All volunteers shall receive a copy of the volunteer handbook and shall be required to sign a volunteer agreement.

Volunteers should be placed only in assignments or programs that are consistent with their knowledge, skills, abilities and the needs of the Office.

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336.2.5 TRAINING

Volunteers will be provided with an orientation program to acquaint them with the Office, personnel, policies and procedures that have a direct impact on their work assignment.

Volunteers should receive position-specific training to ensure they have adequate knowledge and skills to complete tasks required by the position and should receive periodic ongoing training as deemed appropriate by their supervisor or the Volunteer Coordinator/designee.

Training should reinforce to volunteers that they may not intentionally represent themselves as, or by omission infer that they are sworn deputies or other full-time members of the Office. They shall always represent themselves as volunteers.

All volunteers shall comply with the rules of conduct and with all orders and directives, either oral or written, issued by the Office.

336.2.6 FITNESS FOR DUTY

No volunteer shall report to work or be on-duty when his/her judgment or physical condition has been impaired by alcohol, medication, other substances, illness or injury.

Volunteers shall report to their supervisor any changes in status that may affect their ability to fulfill their duties. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Driver's license
- (b) Medical condition
- (c) Arrests
- (d) Criminal investigations

All volunteers shall adhere to the guidelines set forth by this office regarding drug and alcohol use.

336.2.7 DRESS CODE

As representatives of the Office, volunteers are responsible for presenting a professional image to the community. Volunteers shall dress appropriately for the conditions and performance of their duties.

Volunteers shall conform to office-approved dress consistent with their duty assignment. Uniforms authorized for volunteers should be readily distinguishable from those worn by sworn deputies. The uniform or identifiable parts of the uniform shall not be worn while off-duty except volunteers may choose to wear the uniform while in transit to or from official office assignments or functions provided an outer garment is worn over the uniform shirt so as not to bring attention to the volunteer while he/she is off duty.

Volunteers shall be required to return any issued uniform or office property at the termination of service.

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336.3 SUPERVISION OF VOLUNTEERS

Each volunteer who is accepted to a position with the Office must have a clearly identified supervisor who is responsible for direct management of that volunteer. This supervisor will be responsible for day-to-day management and guidance of the work of the volunteer and should be available to the volunteer for consultation and assistance.

A volunteer may be assigned as and act as a supervisor of other volunteers provided that the supervising volunteer is under the direct supervision of a paid staff member.

Functional supervision of volunteers is the responsibility of the supervisor in charge of the unit where the volunteer is assigned. Following are some considerations to keep in mind while supervising volunteers:

- (a) Take the time to introduce volunteers to employees on all levels.
- (b) Ensure volunteers have work space and necessary office supplies.
- (c) Make sure the work is challenging. Do not hesitate to give them an assignment or task that will tap these valuable resources.

336.4 CONFIDENTIALITY

With appropriate security clearance, volunteers may have access to confidential information such as criminal histories or investigative files. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor or office policy, all information shall be considered confidential. Only that information specifically identified and approved by authorized personnel shall be released. Confidential information shall be given only to persons who have a need and a right to know as determined by office policy and supervisory personnel.

Each volunteer will be required to sign a nondisclosure agreement before being given an assignment with the Office. Subsequent unauthorized disclosure of any confidential information, verbally, in writing or by any other means, by the volunteer is grounds for immediate dismissal and possible criminal prosecution.

Volunteers shall not address public gatherings, appear on radio or television, prepare any article for publication, act as correspondents to a newspaper or other periodical, release or divulge any information concerning the activities of the Office, or maintain that they represent the Office in such matters without permission from the proper office personnel.

336.5 PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Volunteers will be issued an identification card that must be worn at all times while on-duty.

Any fixed and portable equipment issued by the Office shall be for official and authorized use only. Any property or equipment issued to a volunteer shall remain the property of the Office and shall be returned at the termination of service.

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336.5.1 VEHICLE USE

Volunteers assigned to duties such as vacation house checks or other assignments that require the use of a vehicle must first complete the following:

- (a) A driving safety briefing and office-approved driver safety course.
- (b) Verification that the volunteer possesses a valid Washington Driver's License.
- (c) Verification that the volunteer carries current vehicle insurance.

The Volunteer Coordinator or designee should insure that all volunteers receive safety briefing updates and license and insurance verification at least once a year.

When operating a Office vehicle, volunteers shall obey all rules of the road, including seat belt requirements. Smoking is prohibited in all Office vehicles.

Volunteers should not operate a marked patrol car unless there is a prominently placed sign indicating that it is out of service and volunteers are not authorized to operate a Office vehicle Code-3.

336.5.2 RADIO AND MDC USAGE

Volunteers shall successfully complete Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS) and radio procedures training prior to using the police radio or MDC and comply with all related provisions. The Volunteer Coordinator or designee should ensure that radio and ACCESS training is provided for volunteers whenever necessary.

336.6 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES/TERMINATION

A volunteer may be removed from the volunteer program at the discretion of the Sheriff or the Volunteer Coordinator/designee. Volunteers shall have no property interests in their continued appointment. However, if a volunteer is removed for alleged misconduct, the volunteer will be afforded an opportunity solely to clear his/her name through a liberty interest hearing which shall be limited to a single appearance before the Sheriff or authorized designee.

Volunteers may resign from volunteer service with the Office at any time. It is requested that volunteers who intend to resign provide advance notice of their departure and a reason for their decision.

336.6.1 EXIT INTERVIEWS

Exit interviews, where possible, should be conducted with volunteers who are leaving their positions. The interview should ascertain why the volunteer is leaving the position and solicit the volunteer's suggestions on improving the position. When appropriate, the interview should also include a discussion on the possibility of involvement in some other capacity with the Office.

336.7 EVALUATION

An evaluation of the overall volunteer program will be conducted on an annual basis by the Volunteer Coordinator/designee. Regular evaluations should be conducted with volunteers to

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ensure the best use of human resources available, to ensure personnel problems can be identified and dealt with promptly and fairly, and to ensure optimum satisfaction on the part of volunteers.

Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions

337.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The decision to become involved in a law enforcement action when off-duty can place a deputy as well as others at great risk and must be done with careful consideration. This policy is intended to provide guidelines for deputies of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office with respect to taking law enforcement action while off-duty.

337.2 POLICY

Initiating law enforcement action while off-duty is generally discouraged. Deputies should not attempt to initiate enforcement action when witnessing minor crimes, such as suspected intoxicated drivers, reckless driving or minor property crimes. Such incidents should be promptly reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Deputies are not expected to place themselves in unreasonable peril. However, any sworn member of this office who becomes aware of an incident or circumstance that he/she reasonably believes poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death, or significant property damage may take reasonable action to minimize the threat.

When public safety or the prevention of major property damage requires immediate action, deputies should first consider reporting and monitoring the activity and only take direct action as a last resort.

337.3 FIREARMS

Deputies of this office may carry firearms while off-duty in accordance with federal regulations and office policy. All firearms and ammunition must meet guidelines as described in the office Firearms Policy. When carrying firearms while off-duty deputies shall also carry their office-issued badge and identification.

Deputies should refrain from carrying firearms when the consumption of alcohol is likely or when the need to carry a firearm is outweighed by safety considerations. Firearms shall not be carried by any member, either on- or off-duty, who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage, taken any drugs or medication or any combination thereof that would tend to adversely affect the deputy's senses or judgment.

337.4 DECISION TO INTERVENE

There is no legal requirement for off-duty deputies to take law enforcement action. However, should deputies decide to intervene, they must evaluate whether the action is necessary or desirable, and should take into consideration the following:

- (a) The tactical disadvantage of being alone and the fact there may be multiple or hidden suspects.
- (b) The inability to communicate with responding units.

Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions

- (c) The lack of equipment, such as handcuffs, OC or baton.
- (d) The lack of cover.
- (e) The potential for increased risk to bystanders if the off-duty deputy were to intervene.
- (f) Unfamiliarity with the surroundings.
- (g) The potential for the off-duty deputy to be misidentified by other peace officers or members of the public.

Deputies should consider waiting for on-duty uniformed deputies to arrive, and gather as much accurate intelligence as possible instead of immediately intervening.

337.4.1 INTERVENTION PROCEDURE

If involvement is reasonably necessary, the deputy should attempt to call or have someone else call 9-1-1 to request immediate assistance. The operator should be informed that an off-duty deputy is on-scene and should be provided a description of the officer if possible.

Whenever practicable, the deputy should loudly and repeatedly identify him/herself as an Skamania County Sheriff's Office deputy until acknowledged. Official identification should also be displayed.

337.4.2 INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Deputies should refrain from handling incidents of personal interest, (e.g., family or neighbor disputes) and should remain neutral. In such circumstances deputies should call the responsible agency to handle the matter.

337.4.3 NON-SWORN RESPONSIBILITIES

Non-sworn personnel should not become involved in any law enforcement actions while off-duty except to notify the local law enforcement authority and remain at the scene, if safe and practicable.

337.4.4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

When encountering a non-uniformed deputy in public, uniformed deputies should wait for acknowledgement by the non-uniformed deputy in case he/she needs to maintain an undercover capability.

337.5 REPORTING

Any off-duty deputy who engages in any law enforcement activity, regardless of jurisdiction, shall notify the Shift Sergeant as soon as practicable. The Shift Sergeant shall determine whether a report should be filed by the employee.

Deputies should cooperate fully with the agency having jurisdiction in providing statements or reports as requested or as appropriate.

Office Use of Social Media

338.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to ensure that any use of social media on behalf of the Office is consistent with the office mission.

This policy does not address all aspects of social media use. Specifically, it does not address:

- Personal use of social media by office members (see the Employee Speech, Expression and Social Networking Policy **1031**).
- Use of social media in personnel processes (see the Recruitment and Selection Policy **1000**).
- Use of social media as part of a criminal investigation, other than disseminating information to the public on behalf of this office (see the Investigation and Prosecution Policy **600**).

338.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Social media - Any of a wide array of Internet-based tools and platforms that allow for the sharing of information, such as the office website or social networking services.

338.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office may use social media as a method of effectively informing the public about office services, issues, investigations and other relevant events.

Office members shall ensure that the use or access of social media is done in a manner that protects the constitutional rights of all.

338.3 AUTHORIZED USERS

Only members authorized by the Sheriff or the authorized designee may utilize social media on behalf of the Office. Authorized members shall use only office-approved equipment during the normal course of duties to post and monitor office-related social media, unless they are specifically authorized to do otherwise by their supervisors.

The Sheriff may develop specific guidelines identifying the type of content that may be posted. Any content that does not strictly conform to the guidelines should be approved by a supervisor prior to posting.

Requests to post information over office social media by members who are not authorized to post should be made through the member's chain of command.

338.4 AUTHORIZED CONTENT

Only content that is appropriate for public release, that supports the office mission and conforms to all office policies regarding the release of information may be posted.

Office Use of Social Media

Examples of appropriate content include:

- (a) Announcements.
- (b) Tips and information related to crime prevention.
- (c) Investigative requests for information.
- (d) Requests that ask the community to engage in projects that are relevant to the office mission.
- (e) Real-time safety information that is related to in-progress crimes, geographical warnings or disaster information.
- (f) Traffic information.
- (g) Press releases.
- (h) Recruitment of personnel.

338.4.1 INCIDENT-SPECIFIC USE

In instances of active incidents where speed, accuracy and frequent updates are paramount (e.g., crime alerts, public safety information, traffic issues), the Public Information Officer or the authorized designee will be responsible for the compilation of information to be released, subject to the approval of the Incident Commander.

338.5 PROHIBITED CONTENT

Content that is prohibited from posting includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Content that is abusive, discriminatory, inflammatory or sexually explicit.
- (b) Any information that violates individual rights, including confidentiality and/or privacy rights and those provided under state, federal or local laws.
- (c) Any information that could compromise an ongoing investigation.
- (d) Any information that could tend to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office or its members.
- (e) Any information that could compromise the safety and security of office operations, members of the Office, victims, suspects or the public.
- (f) Any content posted for personal use.
- (g) Any content that has not been properly authorized by this policy or a supervisor.

Any member who becomes aware of content on this office's social media site that he/she believes is unauthorized or inappropriate should promptly report such content to a supervisor. The supervisor will ensure its removal from public view and investigate the cause of the entry.

338.5.1 PUBLIC POSTING PROHIBITED

Office social media sites shall be designed and maintained to prevent posting of content by the public.

The Office may provide a method for members of the public to contact office members directly.

Office Use of Social Media

338.6 MONITORING CONTENT

The Sheriff will appoint a supervisor to review, at least annually, the use of office social media and report back on, at a minimum, the resources being used, the effectiveness of the content, any unauthorized or inappropriate content and the resolution of any issues.

338.7 RETENTION OF RECORDS

The Administration Division Chief should work with the Custodian of Records to establish a method of ensuring that public records generated in the process of social media use are retained in accordance with established records retention schedules.

338.8 TRAINING

Authorized members should receive training that, at a minimum, addresses legal issues concerning the appropriate use of social media sites, as well as privacy, civil rights, dissemination and retention of information posted on office sites.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation

339.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy is intended ensure the protection and security of ancient or historic grave sites, including notification of personnel responsible for cultural items, in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 USC § 3001 et seq.).

339.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (43 CFR 10.2):

Funerary objects and associated funerary objects - Objects that, as part of the death rite or ceremony of a culture, are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally at the time of death or later with or near individual human remains, or that were made exclusively for burial purposes or to contain human remains.

Native American human remains - The physical remains of the body of a person of Native American ancestry.

Objects of cultural patrimony - Objects having ongoing historical, traditional or cultural importance that is central to the Native American group or culture itself and therefore cannot be appropriated or conveyed by any individual, including members of the Native American group or Native Hawaiian organization. Such objects must have been considered inalienable by the Native American group at the time the object was separated from the group.

Sacred objects - Specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions.

339.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that the protection of Native American human remains, funerary objects, associated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony is the responsibility of all members. Such protection includes minimizing destruction, contamination, inadvertent disruption or complicated custody transfer processes.

339.3 COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT

Upon discovery or arrival upon a scene where it reasonably appears that a Native American grave, human remains, funerary objects, associated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony are exposed or otherwise unsecured, members shall secure the site in the same manner as a crime scene. All activity at the scene other than scene preservation activity must cease (43 CFR 10.4).

No photography or video recording may be permitted by the media or any group or individual who may wish to exhibit the remains.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation

Without delay, the appropriate agency or group shall be notified to respond and take control of the scene. These include the following (43 CFR 10.4):

- Federal land - Appropriate agency at the U.S. Department of the Interior or U.S. Department of Agriculture
- State land - Coroner ([RCW 68.50.645](#))
- Tribal land - Responsible Indian tribal official

339.4 EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY

If the location has been investigated as a possible homicide scene prior to identification as a NAGPRA site, investigators shall work with other appropriate agencies and individuals to ensure the proper transfer and repatriation of any material collected. Members shall ensure that any remains or artifacts located at the site are expediently processed (43 CFR 10.6).

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

340.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for petitioning and serving extreme risk protection orders and accounting for the firearms obtained pursuant to those orders. (see [RCW 7.94.010](#)).

340.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Extreme risk protection order – An order prohibiting a named person from having custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive firearms.

Ex parte extreme risk protection order – An extreme risk protection order that has been issued in the absence of or without notification to the named person.

Family or household member - means, with respect to a respondent, any: (a) Person related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the respondent; (b) dating partners of the respondent; (c) person who has a child in common with the respondent, regardless of whether such person has been married to the respondent or has lived together with the respondent at any time; (d) person who resides or has resided with the respondent within the past year; (e) domestic partner of the respondent; (f) person who has a biological or legal parent-child relationship with the respondent, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren; and (g) person who is acting or has acted as the respondent's legal guardian.

Petitioner - means the person who petitions for an order.

Respondent - means the person who is identified as the respondent in a petition of an order.

340.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to petition for and serve extreme risk protection orders in compliance with state law and to properly account for firearms obtained by the Office pursuant to such orders.

340.3 EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

A deputy who reasonably believes a person, including a minor (person under the age of 18), is a significant danger to themselves or another person by having in their custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive a firearm may request permission from the deputy's supervisor to petition the court for an extreme risk protection order ([RCW 7.105.100](#)).

340.3.1 NOTICE TO PERSONS AT RISK

When a member petitions for an extreme risk protection order, the member shall make a good-faith effort to provide notice to an intimate partner or family or household member of the person

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and to any known third party who the member reasonably believes may be at risk of violence. The notice shall state the intention to seek an extreme risk protection order or that the order has already been sought and include referrals to appropriate resources, including behavioral health, domestic violence, and counseling ([RCW 7.105.110](#)).

340.3.2 REQUIREMENTS OF PETITION

An application for an extreme risk protection order should be prepared, filed, and served consistent with state law and the procedures developed by the extreme risk protection order coordinator ([RCW 7.105.100](#) ; [RCW 7.105.105](#) ; [RCW 7.105.110](#)).

Deputies petitioning the court shall use any standard petition, order, and confidential party information forms created by the administrative office of the courts ([RCW 7.105.105](#)).

The petition shall ([RCW 7.105.100](#) ; [RCW 7.105.105](#) ; [RCW 7.105.110](#)):

- (a) Allege that the person poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to the person or others by having in the person's control or custody, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive a firearm and be accompanied by the confidential party form and declaration signed under penalty of perjury that provides the specific statements and circumstances for which relief is sought.
- (b) Identify the number, types, and locations of any firearms that the [officer_deputy] believes to be owned, possessed, accessed, controlled, or in the custody of the person.
- (c) Identify any other known existing protection orders governing the person.
- (d) Identify, if reasonably identifiable, any pending lawsuits, complaints, petitions, or other action between the person and the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.
- (e) Include an attestation that the deputy provided notice of the intent to seek the order to a family or household member of the person and to any third party who the deputy reasonably believes may be at risk of violence, or an attestation to the steps that will be taken to provide this notice.

A deputy may also seek an ex parte extreme risk protection order, without notice to the person, by including in the petition detailed allegations based on personal knowledge that the person poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to the person or others in the near future by having in the person's custody or control, purchasing, possessing, or receiving or attempting to purchase or receive a firearm. If necessary, the ex parte may be petitioned using an on-call, after-hours judge using the same procedures for after-hours search warrants ([RCW 7.105.110](#)).

340.4 SERVICE OF ORDERS

Service of orders should be made in accordance with the agency protocols.

Personal service of orders shall include copies of all forms with the exception of the law enforcement information sheet (confidential party information form) and the return of service form ([RCW 7.105.155](#)).

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Service of orders should take precedence over the service of other orders, except for orders of a similar emergency nature ([RCW 7.105.155](#)).

340.4.1 PERSONAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

When personally serving an order, including an ex parte order, the first attempt to serve an extreme risk protection order should be made within 24 hours if practicable, but not more than five days after receipt from the court. If the first attempt is unsuccessful, at least two additional attempts should be made. If the order is issued against a minor under the age of 18, deputies shall also make reasonable efforts to serve a copy of the order on the parent or guardian of the minor at the address where the minor resides, or the Department of Children, Youth, and Families in the case where the minor is the subject of a dependency or court approved out-of-home placement. A minor shall not be served at the minor's school unless no other address for service is known ([RCW 7.105.150](#) ; [RCW 7.105.155](#) ; [RCW 7.105.330](#)(5)).

If personal service is not completed within 10 days, the deputy should notify the petitioner, attempt to gain new information sufficient to permit service, and continue to attempt service unless otherwise notified by the court. If the petitioner is unable to provide a service address or there is evidence that the person is evading service, the deputy shall use law enforcement databases to assist in locating the person. If service is not successful, all service attempts shall be documented on the proper form and submitted to the Chief Civil Deputy for filing with the court ([RCW 7.105.155](#)).

If the protected person is present when service is attempted, the deputy should take reasonable steps to separate the protected person to complete service or inquiring about any firearms ([RCW 7.105.155](#)).

340.4.2 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Upon receipt of extreme risk protection order, the operations director or the authorized designee should evaluate the circumstances of the order and consider what precautions are appropriate for service of the protection order.

When appropriate based on the circumstances and office procedures, service of an order should be executed pursuant to the Operations Planning and Deconfliction **Policy 608**

At least two deputies should be present when an order is being served.

340.4.3 SURRENDER OF PROHIBITED ITEMS

The deputy serving any extreme risk protection order, including an ex parte order, shall ([RCW 7.105.340](#)):

- (a) Request that any firearms and any concealed pistol license be immediately surrendered, and issue a receipt for the surrendered items.
 1. The deputy should ensure the original receipt is forwarded to the Chief Civil Deputy.

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- (b) Take into custody any firearms discovered in plain view or pursuant to consent or other lawful search.
- (c) As soon as practicable, but by the end of the deputy's shift, submit the proof of service to the Chief Civil Deputy.

All firearms collected shall be handled and booked in accordance with the Property and Evidence **Policy 801**.

340.5 SEARCH WARRANTS

If a person who has been served with an extreme risk protection order refuses to surrender any firearm, the deputy should consider whether to seek a search warrant. If a search warrant is to be obtained, the preparation and service of the search warrant shall be done in accordance with the Warrant Service **Policy 607**.

340.6 CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Civil Deputy is responsible for ensuring that:

- (a) Orders received by the court are entered into the national instant criminal background check system or any other federal or state computer-based system used by the Office that identifies prohibited purchasers of firearms, and into any other computer-based criminal intelligence information systems used by the Office that lists outstanding warrants ([RCW 7.105.350](#)).
- (b) The original receipt of surrendered firearms is filed with the court within 72 hours of service of an extreme risk protection order. A copy of the receipt shall also be properly maintained by the Office ([RCW 7.105.340](#)).
- (c) Any proofs of service for notices or orders are filed with the court.
- (d) Expired or terminated orders entered into computer-based systems by the Office are removed ([RCW 7.105.350](#)).
- (e) Orders that could not be personally served should be returned to the issuing court on the next judicial day following the last service attempt ([RCW 7.105.155](#)).
 - 1. The return should be made on the appropriate form and include the reason that service was unsuccessful.

340.7 COURT-ORDERED FIREARMS SURRENDERS

Authorized members should accept firearms and a concealed pistol license from any person who is the subject of an extreme risk protection order. The member receiving any firearm shall:

- (a) Record the person's name, address, and telephone number.
- (b) Record the serial number of the firearm.
- (c) Prepare an incident report and property report.
- (d) Provide a property receipt to the person who surrendered the firearms ([RCW 7.105.340](#)).

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1. The original receipt is to be forwarded to the Chief Civil Deputy.
- (e) Package and submit the firearms in accordance with the Property and Evidence **Policy 801**.

340.8 STANDARD FOR ARREST

When a deputy has confirmed that a valid extreme risk protection order exists and has probable cause to believe the person has knowledge of the order and violated that order, the deputy shall make an arrest and take the person into custody ([RCW 10.31.100](#)).

340.9 RELEASE OF FIREARMS

Firearms that were taken into custody or surrendered pursuant to an extreme risk protection order should be returned to the restrained person upon the expiration of the order, in accordance with the Property and Evidence **Policy 801** ([RCW 7.105.345](#)).

340.10 RENEWAL OF EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

The Detective Unit supervisor is responsible for review of an extreme risk protection order obtained by the Office, to determine if renewal should be requested within the time prescribed by law ([RCW 7.105.410](#)).

340.11 ORDERS TO SHOW CAUSE

When the Office receives notice from the court of an order to show cause, the Detective Unit supervisor should consult with legal counsel, as appropriate, to address any requirements involving the Office, including the following ([RCW 7.105.340](#)):

- (a) Fulfilling any additional service requirements for the order to show cause
- (b) Providing the court a complete list of firearms surrendered by the person pursuant to the extreme risk protection order that are in the possession of the Office
- (c) Providing the court with verification that any concealed pistol license was surrendered by the person pursuant to the extreme risk protection order and that the agency with authority to revoke the license has been notified
- (d) Filing an affidavit with the court where there is reasonable suspicion that the person who is subject to the extreme risk protection order is not in full compliance with the terms, including the basis for the belief

Community Relations

341.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for community relationship-building.

Additional guidance on community relations and outreach is provided in other policies, including the:

- Hate Crimes Policy. See policy **319**.
- Limited English Proficiency Services Policy. See policy **330**.
- Communications with Persons with Disabilities Policy. See policy **331**.
- Chaplains Policy. See policy **332**.
- Patrol Function Policy. See policy **400**.
- Suspicious Activity Reporting Policy. See policy **434**.

341.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to promote positive relationships between office members and the community by treating community members with dignity and respect and engaging them in public safety strategy development and relationship-building activities, and by making relevant policy and operations information available to the community in a transparent manner.

341.3 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputies should, as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

- (a) Make casual and consensual contacts with community members to promote positive community relationships (see the Contacts and Temporary Detentions Policy **418**).
- (b) Become reasonably familiar with the schools, businesses, and community groups in their assigned jurisdictional areas.
- (c) Work with community members and the office community relations coordinator to identify issues and solve problems related to community relations and public safety.
- (d) Conduct periodic foot patrols of their assigned areas to facilitate interaction with community members. Deputies carrying out foot patrols should notify an appropriate supervisor and Dispatch of their status (i.e., on foot patrol) and location before beginning and upon completion of the foot patrol. They should also periodically inform Dispatch of their location and status during the foot patrol.

341.4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR/DESIGNEE

The Sheriff or the authorized designee should designate a member of the Office to serve as the community relations coordinator. He/she should report directly to the Sheriff or the authorized designee and is responsible for:

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- (a) Obtaining office-approved training related to his/her responsibilities.
- (b) Responding to requests from office members and the community for assistance in identifying issues and solving problems related to community relations and public safety.
- (c) Organizing surveys to measure the condition of the office's relationship with the community.
- (d) Working with community groups, office members and other community resources to (RCW 43.101.240):
 - 1. Identify and solve public safety problems within the community.
 - 2. Organize programs and activities that help build positive relationships between office members and the community and provide community members with an improved understanding of office operations.
- (e) Working with the Patrol Division Chief to develop patrol deployment plans that allow deputies the time to participate in community engagement and problem-solving activities.
- (f) Recognizing office and community members for exceptional work or performance in community relations efforts.
- (g) Attending County council and other community meetings to obtain information on community relations needs.
- (h) Assisting with the office's response to events that may affect community relations, such as an incident where the conduct of a office member is called into public question.
- (i) Informing the Sheriff and others of developments and needs related to the furtherance of the office's community relations goals, as appropriate.

341.5 SURVEYS

The community relations coordinator or designee should arrange for a survey of community members and office members to be conducted at least annually to assess the condition of the relationship between the Office and the community. Survey questions should be designed to evaluate perceptions of the following:

- (a) Overall performance of the Office
- (b) Overall competence of office members
- (c) Attitude and behavior of office members
- (d) Level of community trust in the Office
- (e) Safety, security or other concerns

A written summary of the compiled results of the survey should be provided to the Sheriff.

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341.6 COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

The community relations coordinator or designee should organize or assist with programs and activities that create opportunities for office members and community members, especially youth, to interact in a positive setting. Examples of such programs and events include:

- (a) Office-sponsored athletic programs (e.g., baseball, basketball, soccer, bowling).
- (b) Police-community get-togethers (e.g., cookouts, meals, charity events).
- (c) Youth leadership and life skills mentoring.
- (d) School resource deputy/Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.®) programs.
- (e) Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention programs.

341.7 INFORMATION SHARING

The community relations coordinator or designee should work with the Public Information Officer to develop methods and procedures for the convenient sharing of information (e.g., major incident notifications, significant changes in office operations, comments, feedback, positive events) between the Office and community members. Examples of information-sharing methods include:

- (a) Community meetings.
- (b) Social media (see the Office Use of Social Media Policy).
- (c) Office website postings.

Information should be regularly refreshed, to inform and engage community members continuously.

341.8 LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS EDUCATION

The community relations coordinator or designee should develop methods to educate community members on general law enforcement operations so they may understand the work that deputies do to keep the community safe. Examples of educational methods include:

- (a) Development and distribution of informational cards/flyers.
- (b) Office website postings.
- (c) Presentations to driver education classes.
- (d) Instruction in schools.
- (e) Office ride-alongs (see the Ride-Along Policy).
- (f) Scenario/Simulation exercises with community member participation.
- (g) Youth internships at the Office.
- (h) Citizen academies.

Instructional information should include direction on how community members should interact with the police during enforcement or investigative contacts and how community members can make

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a complaint to the office regarding alleged misconduct or inappropriate job performance by office members.

341.9 SAFETY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Office members responsible for community relations activities should consider the safety of the community participants and, as much as reasonably practicable, not allow them to be present in any location or situation that would jeopardize their safety.

Office members in charge of community relations events should ensure that participating community members have completed waiver forms before participation, if appropriate. A parent or guardian must complete the waiver form if the participating community member has not reached 18 years of age.

Community members are subject to a criminal history check before approval for participation in certain activities, such as citizen academies.

341.10 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sheriff may establish a committee of volunteers consisting of community members, community leaders and other community stakeholders (e.g., representatives from schools, churches, businesses, social service organizations). The makeup of the committee should reflect the demographics of the community as much as practicable.

The committee should convene regularly to:

- (a) Provide a public forum for gathering information about public safety concerns in the community.
- (b) Work with the Office to develop strategies to solve public safety problems.
- (c) Generate plans for improving the relationship between the Office and the community.
- (d) Participate in community outreach to solicit input from community members, including youth from the community.

The Training Manager should arrange for initial and ongoing training for committee members on topics relevant to their responsibilities.

The Sheriff may include the committee in the evaluation and development of office policies and procedures and may ask them to review certain personnel complaints for the purpose of providing recommendations regarding supervisory, training or other issues as appropriate.

341.10.1 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Sheriff and the community relations coordinator or designee should work with the County Attorney as appropriate to ensure the committee complies with any legal requirements such as public notices, records maintenance and any other associated obligations or procedures.

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341.11 TRANSPARENCY

The Office should periodically publish statistical data and analysis regarding the office's operations. The reports should not contain the names of deputies, suspects or case numbers. The community relations coordinator or designee should work with the community advisory committee to identify information that may increase transparency regarding office operations.

341.12 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, members should receive training related to this policy, including training on topics such as:

- (a) Effective social interaction and communication skills.
- (b) Cultural, racial and ethnic diversity and relations.
- (c) Building community partnerships.
- (d) Community policing and problem-solving principles.
- (e) Enforcement actions and their effects on community relations.

Where practicable and appropriate, community members, especially those with relevant expertise, should be involved in the training to provide input from a community perspective.

Duty to Intervene

342.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines, provisions, and actions for any on-duty peace officer to intervene in the event there is knowledge and/or witnessed excessive use of force or wrongdoing committed by another peace officer. The intent is to assist peace officers in making sound decisions regarding the duty to intervene, to prevent misconduct and excessive uses of force.

342.2 SCOPE

Washington State General Authority Peace Officers.

342.3 DEFINITIONS

Excessive Use of Force: force that exceeds the force permitted by law or policy of the witnessing peace officer's agency.

Peace Officer: refers to any general authority Washington State Peace Officer.

Wrongdoing: conduct that is contrary to law or contrary to the policies of the witnessing officer's agency, provided that the conduct is not de minimis or technical nature.

342.4 POLICY

- (a) Any identifiable on-duty peace officer who witnesses another peace officer engaging or attempting to engage in the use of excessive force against another person shall intervene when in a position to do so, in accordance with , to end the use of excessive force or attempted use of force, or to prevent the future use of excessive force. Please refer to Use of Force Policy **300** and Standards of Conduct Policy **320**.
- (b) Any identifiable on-duty peace officer who witnesses any wrongdoing committed by another peace officer or has good faith reasonable belief that another peace officer committed wrongdoing, shall report such wrongdoing to the witnessing peace officer's supervisor or another supervisory peace officer in accordance with the witnessing peace officer's employing agency's policies and procedures for reporting such acts committed by a peace officer.
- (c) Peace officers must intervene if witnessing a fellow officer engaging in any activity that is unethical, violates law or policy, or when force is being inappropriately applied or applied when it is no longer required.
- (d) A peace officer who is present and visually observes another peace officer using force that is excessive per the Skamania County Sheriff's Office policy shall intervene and attempt to prevent and/or stop the use of excessive force or other wrongdoing as soon as it is safe and feasible. A peace officer's duty to intervene and report will be reviewed under an objectively reasonable officer standard. A peace officer who visually observes another peace officer's use of force that is excessive under this policy, or who otherwise witnesses clear wrongdoing or has a good faith belief that

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another peace officer committed wrongdoing, shall promptly report those observations and actions to their immediate supervisor. These actions and observations shall be documented in an official report.

- (e) Retaliation will not be tolerated against any peace officer who complies with their duty to intervene or those that engage in good faith intervention. A member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall discipline or retaliate against a peace officer in any way for intervening in good faith or reporting wrongdoing in good faith.

342.5 RENDER AID

A peace officer shall provide or facilitate first aid to the injured person at the earliest and safest opportunity at the scene in accordance with .

342.6 REPORTING

Peace Officers shall report to a supervisor immediately and/or when feasible if the following occurs:

- Peace Officer is involved in an intervention
- Peace Officer witnesses excessive force by another peace officer
- Peace Officer witnesses any wrongdoing committed by another peace officer
- Has good faith belief that wrongdoing was committed by another peace officer

Law enforcement agencies shall send notice to the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) of any disciplinary decision resulting from a peace officer's failure to intervene or failure to report as required by this section to determine whether the officer's conduct may be grounds for suspension or revocation or certification under .

Chapter 4 - Patrol Operations

Patrol Function

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the functions of the patrol unit of the Office to ensure intra-office cooperation and information sharing.

400.1.1 FUNCTION

Deputies will generally patrol in clearly marked vehicles, patrol assigned jurisdictional areas of Skamania, respond to calls for assistance, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state and local laws and respond to emergencies 24 hours per day seven days per week.

Patrol will generally provide the following services within the limits of available resources:

- (a) Patrol that is directed at the prevention of criminal acts, traffic violations and collisions, the maintenance of public order, and the discovery of hazardous situations or conditions.
- (b) Crime prevention activities such as residential inspections, business inspections, community presentations, etc.
- (c) Calls for service, both routine and emergency in nature.
- (d) Investigation of both criminal and non-criminal acts.
- (e) The apprehension of criminal offenders.
- (f) Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving activities such as citizen assists and individual citizen contacts of a positive nature.
- (g) The sharing of information between the Patrol and other division within the Office, as well as other outside governmental agencies.
- (h) The application of resources to specific problems or situations within the community, which may be improved or resolved by Community Oriented Policing and problem solving strategies.
- (i) Traffic direction and control.
- (j) Coordinate Search and Rescue operations for missing, lost, or injured persons within Skamania County.

400.1.2 TERRORISM

It is the goal of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to make every reasonable effort to accurately and appropriately gather and report any information that may relate to either foreign or domestic terrorism. Deputies should advise a supervisor as soon as practicable of any activity believed to be terrorism related and should document such incidents with a written report or Field Interview (FI). The supervisor should ensure that all terrorism related reports and FIs are forwarded to the Detective Unit Supervisor in a timely fashion.

Patrol Function

400.2 PATROL INFORMATION SHARING PROCEDURES

The following guidelines are intended to develop and maintain intra-office cooperation and information flow between the various divisions of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

400.2.1 CRIME REPORTS

A crime report may be completed by any patrol deputy who receives criminal information. The report will be processed and forwarded to the appropriate bureau for retention or follow-up investigation.

400.2.2 PATROL BRIEFING

Patrol supervisors, detective sergeants, and special unit sergeants are encouraged to share information as much as possible. All supervisors and/or deputies will be provided an opportunity to share information at the daily patrol Briefings as time permits.

400.2.3 INFORMATION CLIPBOARDS

Several information clipboards will be maintained in the briefing room and will be available for review by deputies from all divisions within the Office. These will include, but not be limited to, the patrol check clipboard, the wanted persons clipboard, and the written directive clipboard.

400.2.4 BULLETIN BOARDS

A bulletin board will be kept in the briefing room and the Detective Unit for display of suspect information, intelligence reports and photographs. New Special Orders will be made available for patrol supervisors and will be discussed at briefings and shift meetings. A copy of the Special Order will be placed on the briefing room clipboard.

400.3 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Deputies may encounter gatherings of people, including but not limited to, civil demonstrations, civic, social and business events, public displays, parades and sporting events. Deputies should monitor such events as time permits in an effort to keep the peace and protect the safety and rights of those present. A patrol supervisor should be notified when it becomes reasonably foreseeable that such an event may require increased monitoring, contact or intervention.

Deputies responding to an event or gathering that warrants law enforcement involvement should carefully balance the speech and association rights of those present with applicable public safety concerns before taking enforcement action. Deputies are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety/order concerns.

Deputies should consider enforcement of applicable state and local laws, when the activity blocks the entrance or egress of a facility or location and when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.

Bias-Based Policing

401.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to office members that affirms the Skamania County Sheriff's Office's commitment to policing that is fair and objective. Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of specified characteristics in law enforcement activities designed to strengthen the office's relationship with its diverse communities (e.g., cultural and ethnicity awareness training, youth programs, community group outreach, partnerships) (RCW 43.101.410).

401.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Bias-based policing - An inappropriate reliance on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group (protected characteristics) as the basis for providing differing law enforcement service or enforcement.

401.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this office to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

401.3 BIAS-BASED POLICING PROHIBITED

Bias-based policing is strictly prohibited.

However, nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit a deputy from considering protected characteristics in combination with credible, timely and distinct information connecting a person or people of a specific characteristic to a specific unlawful incident, or to specific unlawful incidents, specific criminal patterns or specific schemes.

401.3.1 OTHER PROHIBITIONS

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office also condemns the illegal use of an individual or group's attire, appearance, or mode of transportation, including the fact that an individual rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle-related paraphernalia, as a factor in deciding to stop and question, take enforcement action, arrest, or search a person or vehicle with or without a legal basis under the United States Constitution or Washington State Constitution (RCW 43.101.419).

Additionally, members shall not collect information from a person based on religious belief, practice, or affiliation unless permitted under state law. Members shall not (RCW 42.60.020; RCW 42.60.030):

Bias-Based Policing

- (a) Provide or disclose to federal government authorities personally identifiable information about a person's religious belief, practice, or affiliation unless the member is being questioned as a witness to a crime.
- (b) Assist federal government authorities in compiling personal information about a person's religious belief, practice, or affiliation.
- (c) Investigate or enforce any requirement that a person register with the federal government or a federal agency based on religion.

401.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every member of this office shall perform his/her duties in a fair and objective manner and is responsible for promptly reporting any suspected or known instances of bias-based policing to a supervisor. Members should, when reasonable to do so, intervene to prevent any biased-based actions by another member.

401.4.1 REASON FOR CONTACT

Deputies contacting a person shall be prepared to articulate sufficient reason for the contact independent of the protected characteristics of the individual.

To the extent that written documentation would otherwise be completed (e.g., arrest report, field interview (FI) card), the involved deputy should include those facts giving rise to the contact, as applicable.

Except for required data-collection forms or methods, nothing in this policy shall require any deputy to document a contact that would not otherwise require reporting.

401.4.2 REPORTING TRAFFIC STOPS

Each time a deputy makes a traffic stop, the deputy shall report any demographic information required by the Office (RCW 43.101.410).

401.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should monitor those individuals under their command for compliance with this policy and shall handle any alleged or observed violations in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

- (a) Supervisors should discuss any issues with the involved deputy and his/her supervisor in a timely manner.
 - 1. Supervisors should document these discussions, in the prescribed manner.
- (b) Supervisors should periodically review MAV recordings, portable audio/video recordings, Mobile Data Center (MDC) data and any other available resource used to document contact between deputies and the public to ensure compliance with this policy.
 - 1. Supervisors should document these periodic reviews.
 - 2. Recordings that capture a potential instance of bias-based policing should be appropriately retained for administrative investigation purposes.

Bias-Based Policing

- (c) Supervisors shall initiate investigations of any actual or alleged violations of this policy.
- (d) Supervisors should take prompt and reasonable steps to address any retaliatory action taken against any member of this office who discloses information concerning bias-based policing.

401.6 STATE REPORTING

Subject to any fiscal constraints, the Patrol Division Chief should review available data related to traffic stops, including demographic data, existing procedures, practices and training, as well as complaints. The data should be analyzed for any patterns or other possible indicators of racial- or bias-based profiling and included in an annual report for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (RCW 43.101.410(3)).

401.7 ADMINISTRATION

The Patrol Division Chief should review the efforts of the Office to provide fair and objective policing and submit an annual report, including public concerns and complaints, to the Sheriff. The annual report should not contain any identifying information about any specific complaint, citizen or deputies. It should be reviewed by the Sheriff to identify any changes in training or operations that should be made to improve service.

Supervisors should review the annual report submitted to the Washington Association of Chiefs of Police and discuss the results with those they are assigned to supervise.

401.8 TRAINING

Training on fair and objective policing and review of this policy should be conducted as directed by the Training Manager (RCW 43.101.410).

Briefing Training

402.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Briefing training is generally conducted at the beginning of the deputy's assigned shift. Briefing provides an opportunity for important exchange between employees and supervisors. A supervisor generally will conduct Briefing; however deputies may conduct Briefing for training purposes with supervisor approval.

Briefing should accomplish, at a minimum, the following basic tasks:

- (a) Briefing deputies with information regarding daily patrol activity, with particular attention given to unusual situations and changes in the status of wanted persons, stolen vehicles, and major investigations.
- (b) Notifying deputies of changes in schedules and assignments.
- (c) Notifying deputies of new Special Orders or changes in Special Orders.
- (d) Reviewing recent incidents for training purposes.
- (e) Providing training on a variety of subjects.
- (f) Every deputy is responsible for reviewing CAD logs at the beginning of their respected shifts when reasonably practicable.

402.2 PREPARATION OF MATERIALS

The supervisor conducting Briefing is responsible for preparation of the materials necessary for a constructive briefing. Supervisors may delegate this responsibility to a subordinate deputy in his/her absence or for training purposes.

402.3 RETENTION OF BRIEFING TRAINING RECORDS

Briefing training materials and a curriculum or summary shall be forwarded to the Training Manager for inclusion in training records, as appropriate.

Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity

403.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in handling a major crime or disaster.

403.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to secure crime or disaster scenes so that evidence is preserved, and to identify and mitigate the dangers associated with a major crime or disaster scene for the safety of the community and those required to enter or work near the scene.

403.3 SCENE RESPONSIBILITY

The first deputy at the scene of a crime or major incident is generally responsible for the immediate safety of the public and preservation of the scene. Deputies shall also consider officer safety and the safety of those persons entering or exiting the area, including those rendering medical aid to any injured parties. Once a deputy has assumed or been assigned to maintain the integrity and security of the crime or disaster scene, the deputy shall maintain the crime or disaster scene until he/she is properly relieved by a supervisor or other designated person.

403.4 FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS

The following list generally describes the first responder's function at a crime or disaster scene. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, is not necessarily in order and may be altered according to the demands of each situation:

- (a) Broadcast emergency information, including requests for additional assistance and resources.
- (b) Provide for the general safety of those within the immediate area by mitigating, reducing or eliminating threats or dangers.
- (c) Locate or identify suspects and determine whether dangerous suspects are still within the area.
- (d) Provide first aid to injured parties if it can be done safely.
- (e) Evacuate the location safely as required or appropriate.
- (f) Secure the inner perimeter.
- (g) Protect items of apparent evidentiary value.
- (h) Secure an outer perimeter.
- (i) Identify potential witnesses.
- (j) Start a chronological log noting critical times and personnel allowed access.

Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity

403.5 SEARCHES

Deputies arriving at crime or disaster scenes are often faced with the immediate need to search for and render aid to victims, and to determine if suspects are present and continue to pose a threat. Once deputies are satisfied that no additional suspects are present and/or there are no injured persons to be treated, those exigent circumstances will likely no longer exist. Deputies should thereafter secure the scene and conduct no further search until additional or alternate authority for the search is obtained, such as consent or a search warrant.

403.5.1 CONSENT

When possible, deputies should seek written consent to search from authorized individuals. However, in the case of serious crimes or major investigations, it may be prudent to also obtain a search warrant. Consent as an additional authorization may be sought, even in cases where a search warrant has been granted.

403.6 INVESTIGATION DIVISION CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Investigation Division Chief is responsible for ensuring procedures are established that are consistent with the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division Crime Scene Procedures Manual, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring reasonable access to qualified personnel, equipment and supplies for processing crime scenes.
- (b) Establishing procedures for collecting, processing and preserving physical evidence in the field.
- (c) Establishing procedures for photographing, video-recording and other imaging used to collect and preserve evidence.
- (d) Establishing procedures for processing, developing, lifting and labeling fingerprints.
- (e) Establishing procedures for the safe collection, storage, transportation and submission of biological and other evidence for DNA testing and evaluation.

Ride-Along Policy

404.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ride-Along Program provides an opportunity for citizens to experience the law enforcement function first hand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, and hours of operation for the Ride-Along Program.

404.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office Ride-Along Program is offered to residents, students and those employed within the County. Every attempt will be made to accommodate interested persons however any applicant may be disqualified without cause.

The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:

- Being under 18 years of age.
- Prior criminal history.
- Pending criminal action.
- Pending lawsuit against the Office.
- Denial by any supervisor.

404.1.2 AVAILABILITY

The Ride-Along Program is available on most days of the week, with certain exceptions. The ride-along times are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Sheriff, Division Chief, or Shift Sergeant.

404.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

Generally, ride-along requests will be scheduled by the Patrol Sergeant. The participant will complete a ride-along waiver form. Information requested will include a valid ID or Washington driver's license, address, and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must be present to complete the Ride-Along Form.

The Patrol Sergeant will schedule a date, based on availability, at least one week after the date of application. If approved, a copy will be forwarded to the respective Shift Sergeant as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations.

If the ride-along is denied after the request has been made, a representative of the Office will contact the applicant and advise him/her of the denial.

404.2.1 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months. An exception would apply to the following: Cadets, Explorers, RSVP, Chaplains, Reserves, sheriff's applicants, and all others with approval of the Shift Sergeant.

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An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride-along will be allowed in the deputy's vehicle at a given time.

Ride-along requirements for sheriff's cadets are covered in the Sheriff's Cadet Program Policy.

404.2.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride along is required to be suitably dressed in collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans are not permitted. Hats and ball caps will not be worn in the sheriff's vehicle. The Shift Sergeant or field supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

404.2.3 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

Off-duty members of this office or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride-along with on-duty deputies without the expressed consent of the Shift Sergeant. In the event that such a ride-along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent themselves as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

404.3 DEPUTY'S RESPONSIBILITY

The deputy shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Deputies shall consider the safety of the ride-along at all times. Deputies should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, and if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well-lighted place of safety. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practical have another sheriff's unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.

The Patrol Sergeant is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride-alongs. Upon completion of the ride-along, the form shall be returned to the Patrol Sergeant with any comments which may be offered by the deputy.

404.4 CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG

The assigned employee shall maintain control over the ride-along at all times and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit their participation. These instructions should include:

- (a) The ride-along will follow the directions of the deputy.
- (b) The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or handling any sheriff's equipment.
- (c) The ride-along may terminate the ride-along at any time and the deputy may return the observer to their home or to the station if the ride-along interferes with the performance of the deputy's duties.
- (d) Ride-alongs may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety.

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- (e) Deputies will not allow any ride-alongs to be present in any residences or situations that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other citizen.
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with a deputy without the expressed consent of the resident or other authorized person.

Hazardous Material Response

405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Exposure to hazardous materials present potential harm to office members and the public. This policy outlines the responsibilities of members who respond to these events and the factors that should be considered while on-scene, including the reporting of exposures and supervisor responsibilities.

405.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Hazardous material - A substance which, by its nature, containment and reactivity, has the capability of inflicting harm during exposure; characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health when improperly managed.

Emergency Response Guidebook (E.R.G.) - A guidebook intended for use by first responders during the initial phase of a transportation incident involving dangerous goods/hazardous materials.

405.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to respond to hazardous material emergencies with due regard for the safety of the public and those members responding to such incidents.

405.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

Each deputy shall be equipped with an updated Emergency Response Guidebook or equivalent electronic E.R.G. version for identification, potential hazards, and initial isolation and protective action distances.

Members may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic collision, chemical spill, or fire. When members come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and other persons.

The fire department is the agency trained and equipped to properly respond to and mitigate most incidents involving hazardous materials and biohazards.

Responders should not perform tasks or use equipment without proper training. A responder entering the area may require decontamination before he/she is allowed to leave the scene, and should be evaluated by appropriate technicians and emergency medical services personnel for signs of exposure.

405.4 CONSIDERATIONS

The following steps should be considered at any scene involving suspected hazardous materials:

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- (a) Make the initial assessment of a potentially hazardous material from a safe distance.
- (b) Notify Dispatch, appropriate supervisors, the appropriate fire department and hazardous response units.
 - 1. Provide weather conditions, wind direction, a suggested safe approach route and any other information pertinent to responder safety.
- (c) Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), being cognizant that some hazardous material can be inhaled.
- (d) Remain upwind, uphill and at a safe distance, maintaining awareness of weather and environmental conditions, until the material is identified and a process for handling has been determined.
- (e) Attempt to identify the type of hazardous material from a safe distance using optical aids (binoculars or spotting scopes) if they are available. Identification can be determined by:
 - 1. Placards or use of an emergency response guidebook.
 - 2. Driver's manifest or statements or shipping documents from the person transporting the material.
 - 3. Information obtained from any involved person with knowledge regarding the hazardous material. Information should include:
 - (a) The type of material.
 - (b) How to secure and contain the material.
 - (c) Any other information to protect the safety of those present, the community and the environment.
- (f) Provide first-aid to injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.
- (g) Make reasonable efforts to secure the scene and prevent access from unauthorized individuals and to protect and identify any evidence.
- (h) Begin evacuation of the immediate and surrounding areas, dependent on the material. Voluntary evacuation should be considered; mandatory evacuation may be necessary and will depend on the type of material.
- (i) Establish a decontamination area when needed.
- (j) Activate automated community notification systems, if applicable.
- (k) Dependent upon the substance and other specific conditions, consider initiating an emergency public notification or evacuation. The decision to initiate public notifications and/or evacuations shall be in accordance with the Skamania Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) procedures.

405.5 REPORTING EXPOSURE

Office members who believe that they have been exposed to a hazardous material shall immediately report the exposure to a supervisor. Each exposure shall be documented by the member in an incident report that shall be forwarded via chain of command to the Shift Sergeant as

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soon as practicable. Should the affected member be unable to document the exposure for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the notified supervisor to complete the report.

Injury or illness caused or believed to be caused from exposure to hazardous materials shall be reported the same as any other on-duty injury or illness in addition to a crime report or incident report as applicable.

405.5.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When a supervisor has been informed that a member has been exposed to a hazardous material, he/she shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained and appropriate action is taken to mitigate the exposure or continued exposure.

To ensure the safety of members, PPE is available from supervisors. PPE items not maintained by this office may be available through the appropriate fire department or emergency response team.

Hostage and Barricade Incidents

406.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for situations where deputies have legal cause to contact, detain or arrest a person, and the person refuses to submit to the lawful requests of the deputies by remaining in a structure or vehicle and/or by taking a hostage.

The scope of this policy is not intended to address all variables that deputies encounter during their initial response or when a hostage or barricade situation has developed. This policy does not require or purport to recommend specific strategies or tactics for resolution as each incident is a dynamic and rapidly evolving event.

406.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Barricade situation - An incident where a person maintains a position of cover or concealment and ignores or resists law enforcement personnel, and it is reasonable to believe the subject is armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon.

Hostage situation - An incident where it is reasonable to believe a person is unlawfully held by a hostage-taker as security so that specified terms or conditions will be met.

406.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to address hostage and barricade situations with due regard for the preservation of life and balancing the risk of injury, while obtaining the safe release of hostages, apprehending offenders and securing available evidence.

406.3 COMMUNICATION

When circumstances permit, initial responding deputies should try to establish and maintain lines of communication with a barricaded person or hostage-taker. Deputies should attempt to identify any additional subjects, inquire about victims and injuries, seek the release of hostages, gather intelligence information, identify time-sensitive demands or conditions and obtain the suspect's surrender.

When available, office-authorized negotiators should respond to the scene as soon as practicable and assume communication responsibilities. Negotiators are permitted to exercise flexibility in each situation based upon their training, the circumstances presented, suspect actions or demands and the available resources.

406.3.1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

A supervisor may order the telephone company to cut, reroute or divert telephone/communication lines in order to prevent a suspect from communicating with anyone other than designated personnel in a barricade or hostage situation ([RCW 70.85.100](#)).

Hostage and Barricade Incidents

406.4 FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS

First responding deputies should promptly and carefully evaluate all available information to determine whether an incident involves, or may later develop into, a hostage or barricade situation.

The first responding deputy should immediately request a supervisor's response as soon as it is determined that a hostage or barricade situation exists. The first responding deputy shall assume the duties of the supervisor until relieved by a supervisor or a more qualified responder. The deputy shall continually evaluate the situation, including the level of risk to deputies, to the persons involved and to bystanders, and the resources currently available.

The handling deputy should brief the arriving supervisor of the incident, including information about suspects and victims, the extent of any injuries, additional resources or equipment that may be needed, and current perimeters and evacuation areas.

406.4.1 BARRICADE SITUATION

Unless circumstances require otherwise, deputies handling a barricade situation should attempt to avoid a forceful confrontation in favor of stabilizing the incident by establishing and maintaining lines of communication while awaiting the arrival of specialized personnel and trained negotiators. During the interim the following options, while not all-inclusive or in any particular order, should be considered, when practicable:

- (a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated from the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so. Request medical assistance.
- (b) Assign personnel to a contact team to control the subject should he/she attempt to exit the building, structure or vehicle, and attack, use deadly force, attempt to escape or surrender prior to additional resources arriving.
- (c) Request additional personnel, resources and equipment as needed (e.g., canine team, air support).
- (d) Provide responding emergency personnel with a safe arrival route to the location.
- (e) Evacuate non-injured persons in the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so.
- (f) Attempt or obtain a line of communication and gather as much information on the subject as possible, including weapons, other involved parties, additional hazards or injuries.
- (g) Establish an inner and outer perimeter as circumstances require and resources permit to prevent unauthorized access.
- (h) Evacuate bystanders, residents and businesses within the inner and then outer perimeter as appropriate. Check for injuries, the presence of other involved subjects, witnesses, evidence or additional information.
- (i) Determine the need for and notify the appropriate persons within and outside the Office, such as command officers and the Public Information Officer.
- (j) If necessary and available, establish a tactical or exclusive radio frequency for the incident.

Hostage and Barricade Incidents

- (k) Establish a command post.

406.4.2 HOSTAGE SITUATION

Deputies presented with a hostage situation should attempt to avoid a forceful confrontation in favor of controlling the incident in anticipation of the arrival of specialized personnel and trained hostage negotiators. However, it is understood that hostage situations are dynamic and can require that deputies react quickly to developing or changing threats. The following options while not all-inclusive or in any particular order, should be considered, when practicable:

- (a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated from the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so. Request medical assistance.
- (b) Assign personnel to a contact team to control the subject should he/she attempt to exit the building, structure or vehicle, and attack, use deadly force, attempt to escape or surrender prior to additional resources arriving.
- (c) Establish a rapid response team in the event it becomes necessary to rapidly enter a building, structure or vehicle, such as when the suspect is using deadly force against any hostages (see the Rapid Response and Deployment Policy).
- (d) Assist hostages or potential hostages to escape if it is reasonably safe to do so. Hostages should be kept separated if practicable pending further interview.
- (e) Request additional personnel, resources and equipment as needed (e.g., canine team, air support).
- (f) Provide responding emergency personnel with a safe arrival route to the location.
- (g) Evacuate non-injured persons in the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so.
- (h) Coordinate pursuit or surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes.
- (i) Attempt or obtain a line of communication and gather as much information about the suspect as possible, including any weapons, victims and their injuries, additional hazards, other involved parties and any other relevant intelligence information.
- (j) Establish an inner and outer perimeter as resources and circumstances permit to prevent unauthorized access.
- (k) Evacuate bystanders, residents and businesses within the inner and then outer perimeter as appropriate. Check for injuries, the presence of other involved subjects, witnesses, evidence or additional information.
- (l) Determine the need for and notify the appropriate persons within and outside the Office, such as command officers and the PIO.
- (m) If necessary and available, establish a tactical or exclusive radio frequency for the incident.

406.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that a hostage or barricade situation exists, the supervisor should immediately respond to the scene, assess the risk level of the situation, establish a proper chain of command

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and assume the role of Incident Commander until properly relieved. This includes requesting a Crisis Response Unit response if appropriate and apprising the Crisis Response Unit Commander of the circumstances. In addition, the following options, listed here in no particular order, should be considered, when practicable:

- (a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated and treated by medical personnel.
- (b) Ensure the completion of necessary first responder responsibilities or assignments.
- (c) Request crisis negotiators, specialized units, additional personnel, resources or equipment as appropriate.
- (d) Establish a command post location as resources and circumstances permit.
- (e) Designate assistants who can help with intelligence information and documentation of the incident.
- (f) If it is practicable to do so, arrange for video documentation of the operation.
- (g) Consider contacting utility and communication providers when restricting such services (e.g., restricting electric power, gas, telephone service).
- (h) Ensure adequate law enforcement coverage for the remainder of the County during the incident. The supervisor should direct non-essential personnel away from the scene unless they have been summoned by the supervisor or Dispatch.
- (i) Identify a media staging area outside the outer perimeter and have the office Public Information Officer or a designated temporary media representative provide media access in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.
- (j) Identify the need for mutual aid and the transition or relief of personnel for incidents of extended duration.
- (k) Debrief personnel and review documentation as appropriate.

406.6 REPORTING

Unless otherwise relieved by a supervisor or Incident Commander, the handling deputy at the scene is responsible for completion and/or coordination of incident reports.

Response to Bomb Calls

407.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to assist members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office in their initial response to incidents involving explosives, explosive devices, explosion/bombing incidents or threats of such incidents. Under no circumstances should these guidelines be interpreted as compromising the safety of first responders or the public. When confronted with an incident involving explosives, safety should always be the primary consideration.

407.2 DEFINITIONS

Explosive or Incendiary Device means (A) dynamite and all other forms of high explosives, (B) any explosive bomb, grenade, missile, or similar device, and (C) any incendiary bomb or grenade, fire bomb, or similar device, including any device which (i) consists of or includes a breakable container including a flammable liquid or compound, and a wick composed of any material which, when ignited, is capable of igniting such flammable liquid or compound, and (ii) can be carried or thrown by one individual acting alone.

407.3 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to place a higher priority on the safety of persons and the public over damage or destruction to public or private property.

407.4 RECEIPT OF BOMB THREAT

Office members receiving a bomb threat should obtain as much information from the individual as reasonably possible, including the type, placement, and alleged detonation time of the device.

If the bomb threat is received on a recorded line, reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that the recording is preserved in accordance with established office evidence procedures.

The member receiving the bomb threat should ensure that the Shift Sergeant is immediately advised and informed of the details. This will enable the Shift Sergeant to ensure that the appropriate personnel are dispatched and, as appropriate, the threatened location is given an advance warning.

407.5 GOVERNMENT FACILITY OR PROPERTY

A bomb threat targeting a government facility may require a different response based on the government agency.

407.5.1 SKAMANIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FACILITY

If the bomb threat is against the Skamania County Sheriff's Office facility, the Shift Sergeant will direct and assign deputies as required for coordinating a general building search or evacuation of the sheriff's office, as he/she deems appropriate.

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407.5.2 OTHER COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL FACILITY OR PROPERTY

If the bomb threat is against a county or municipal facility within the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that is not the property of this office, the appropriate agency will be promptly informed of the threat. Assistance to the other entity may be provided as the Shift Sergeant deems appropriate.

407.5.3 FEDERAL BUILDING OR PROPERTY

If the bomb threat is against a federal building or property, the Federal Protective Service should be immediately notified. The Federal Protective Service provides a uniformed law enforcement response for most facilities, which may include use of its Explosive Detector Dog teams.

If the bomb threat is against a federal government property where the Federal Protective Service is unable to provide a timely response, the appropriate facility's security or command staff should be notified.

Bomb threats against a military installation should be reported to the military police or other military security responsible for the installation.

407.6 PRIVATE FACILITY OR PROPERTY

When a member of this office receives notification of a bomb threat at a location in the County of Skamania, the member receiving the notification should obtain as much information as reasonably possible from the notifying individual, including:

- (a) The location of the facility.
- (b) The nature of the threat.
- (c) Whether the type and detonation time of the device is known.
- (d) Whether the facility is occupied and, if so, the number of occupants currently on-scene.
- (e) Whether the individual is requesting sheriff's assistance at the facility.
- (f) Whether there are any internal facility procedures regarding bomb threats in place, such as:
 - 1. No evacuation of personnel and no search for a device.
 - 2. Search for a device without evacuation of personnel.
 - 3. Evacuation of personnel without a search for a device.
 - 4. Evacuation of personnel and a search for a device.

The member receiving the bomb threat information should ensure that the Shift Sergeant is immediately notified so that he/she can communicate with the person in charge of the threatened facility.

407.6.1 ASSISTANCE

The Shift Sergeant should be notified when sheriff's assistance is requested. The Shift Sergeant will make the decision whether the Office will render assistance and at what level. Information

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and circumstances that indicate a reasonably apparent, imminent threat to the safety of either the facility or the public may require a more active approach, including sheriff's control over the facility.

Should the Shift Sergeant determine that the Office will assist or control such an incident, he/she will determine:

- (a) The appropriate level of assistance.
- (b) The plan for assistance.
- (c) Whether to evacuate and/or search the facility.
- (d) Whether to involve facility staff in the search or evacuation of the building.
 - 1. The person in charge of the facility should be made aware of the possibility of damage to the facility as a result of a search.
 - 2. The safety of all participants is the paramount concern.
- (e) The need for additional resources, including:
 - 1. Notification and response, or standby notice, for fire and emergency medical services.

Even though a facility does not request sheriff's assistance to clear the interior of a building, based upon the circumstances and known threat, deputies may be sent to the scene to evacuate other areas that could be affected by the type of threat, or for traffic and pedestrian control.

407.7 FOUND DEVICE

When handling an incident involving a suspected explosive device, the following guidelines, while not all inclusive, should be followed:

- (a) No known or suspected explosive item should be considered safe regardless of its size or apparent packaging.
- (b) The device should not be touched or moved except by the bomb squad or military explosive ordnance disposal team.
- (c) Personnel should not transmit on any equipment that is capable of producing radio frequency energy within the evacuation area around the suspected device. This includes the following:
 - 1. Two-way radios
 - 2. Cell phones
 - 3. Other personal communication devices
- (d) The appropriate bomb squad or military explosive ordnance disposal team should be summoned for assistance.
- (e) The largest perimeter reasonably possible should initially be established around the device based upon available personnel and the anticipated danger zone.
- (f) A safe access route should be provided for support personnel and equipment.

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- (g) Search the area for secondary devices as appropriate and based upon available resources.
- (h) Consider evacuation of buildings and personnel near the device or inside the danger zone and the safest exit route.
- (i) Promptly relay available information to the Shift Sergeant including:
 - 1. The time of discovery.
 - 2. The exact location of the device.
 - 3. A full description of the device (e.g., size, shape, markings, construction).
 - 4. The anticipated danger zone and perimeter.
 - 5. The areas to be evacuated or cleared.

407.8 EXPLOSION/BOMBING INCIDENTS

When an explosion has occurred, there are multitudes of considerations which may confront the responding deputies. As in other catastrophic events, a rapid response may help to minimize injury to victims, minimize contamination of the scene by gathering crowds, or minimize any additional damage from fires or unstable structures.

407.8.1 CONSIDERATIONS

Deputies responding to explosions, whether accidental or a criminal act, should consider the following actions:

- (a) Assess the scope of the incident, including the number of victims and extent of injuries.
- (b) Request additional personnel and resources, as appropriate.
- (c) Assist with first aid.
- (d) Identify and take appropriate precautions to mitigate scene hazards, such as collapsed structures, bloodborne pathogens and hazardous materials.
- (e) Assist with the safe evacuation of victims, if possible.
- (f) Establish an inner perimeter to include entry points and evacuation routes. Search for additional or secondary devices.
- (g) Preserve evidence.
- (h) Establish an outer perimeter and evacuate if necessary.
- (i) Identify witnesses.

Emergency Detentions

408.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for when deputies may place an individual under an emergency detention.

408.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to protect the public and individuals through legal and appropriate use of the emergency detention process.

408.3 AUTHORITY

A deputy may take a person into emergency detention when either ([RCW 71.05.150](#) ; [RCW 71.05.153](#) ; RCW 71.05.201; RCW 71.34.710; RCW 71.34.351):

- (a) There is reasonable cause to believe that a person is suffering from a behavioral health disorder (e.g., mental disorder, substance abuse disorder) and presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled
- (b) The deputy has received an order authorizing emergency detention from a court or a designated crisis responder

Persons taken into emergency detention should be transported to an appropriate facility as soon as practicable.

408.3.1 VOLUNTARY EVALUATION

If a deputy encounters an individual who may qualify for emergency detention, he/she may inquire as to whether the person desires to voluntarily be evaluated at an appropriate facility. If the individual so desires, the deputies should:

- (a) Transport or facilitate transportation for the individual to an appropriate facility that is able to conduct the evaluation and admit the person.
- (b) Document the circumstances surrounding the individual's desire to pursue voluntary evaluation and/or admission.

If at any point the individual changes his/her mind regarding voluntary evaluation, deputies should proceed with the emergency detention process, if appropriate.

408.4 CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Any deputy handling a call involving an individual who may qualify for emergency detention should consider, as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

- (a) Available information that might assist in determining the cause and nature of the individual's action or stated intentions.
- (b) Community or neighborhood mediation services.
- (c) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques.

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- (d) Community or other resources available to assist in dealing with behavioral health issues.

While these steps are encouraged, nothing in this section is intended to dissuade deputies from taking reasonable action to ensure the safety of the deputies and others.

Emergency detentions should be preferred over arrest for individuals with behavioral health disorders who are suspected of committing minor crimes or creating other public safety issues.

408.5 TRANSPORTATION

When taking any individual into emergency detention, the transporting deputy should have Dispatch notify the receiving facility of the estimated time of arrival, the level of cooperation of the individual, and whether any special medical care is needed.

Deputies may transport individuals in a patrol vehicle and shall secure them in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. Should the detainee require transport in a medical transport vehicle and the safety of any person, including the detainee, requires the presence of a deputy during the transport, Shift Sergeant approval is required before transport commences.

408.6 TRANSFER TO APPROPRIATE FACILITY

Upon arrival at the facility, the deputy will escort the individual into a treatment area designated by a facility staff member. If the individual is not seeking voluntary treatment, the deputy should provide the staff member with the written application for an emergency detention and remain present to provide clarification of the grounds for detention, upon request.

Absent exigent circumstances, the transporting deputy should not assist facility staff with the admission process, including restraint of the individual. However, if the individual is transported and delivered while restrained, the deputy may assist with transferring the individual to facility restraints and will be available to assist during the admission process, if requested. Under normal circumstances, deputies will not apply facility-ordered restraints.

408.7 DOCUMENTATION

The deputy should complete an application for emergency detention, provide it to the facility staff member assigned to the individual, and retain a copy of the application for inclusion in the case report.

The deputy should also provide a verbal summary to any evaluating staff member regarding the circumstances leading to the involuntary detention.

408.8 CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Deputies investigating an individual who is suspected of committing a minor criminal offense and who is being taken into emergency detention should resolve the criminal matter by issuing a warning or a citation, as appropriate.

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When an individual who may qualify for emergency detention has committed a serious criminal offense that would normally result in an arrest and transfer to a jail facility, the deputy should:

- (a) Arrest the individual when there is probable cause to do so.
- (b) Notify the appropriate supervisor of the facts supporting the arrest and the facts that would support the emergency detention.
- (c) Facilitate the individual's transfer to the jail facility.
- (d) Thoroughly document in the related reports the circumstances that indicate the individual may qualify for emergency detention.

In the supervisor's judgment, the individual may instead be arrested or booked and transported to the appropriate mental health facility. The supervisor should consider the seriousness of the offense, the treatment options available, the ability of this office to regain custody of the individual, office resources (e.g., posting a guard), and other relevant factors in making this decision.

408.9 FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

Whenever an individual is taken into emergency custody, the handling deputies should seek to determine if the individual owns or has access to any firearm or other deadly weapon. Deputies should consider whether it is appropriate and consistent with current search and seizure law under the circumstances to seize any such firearms or other dangerous weapons (e.g., safekeeping, evidence, consent).

Deputies are cautioned that a search warrant may be needed before entering a residence or other place to search, unless lawful, warrantless entry has already been made (e.g., exigent circumstances, consent). A warrant may also be needed before searching for or seizing weapons.

The handling deputies should further advise the individual of the procedure for the return of any firearm or other weapon that has been taken into custody.

408.10 TRAINING

This office will endeavor to provide office-approved training on interaction with persons with behavioral health disorders, emergency detentions and crisis intervention.

Citation Releases

409.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office with guidance on when to release adults who are suspected offenders on a citation and notice to appear in court for a criminal offense, rather than having the person held in custody for a court appearance or released on bail.

409.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will consider its resources and its mission of protecting the community when exercising any discretion to release suspected offenders on a citation and notice to appear in court, when authorized to do so.

409.3 RELEASE

A suspected offender may be released on issuance of a citation and notice to appear in court by a deputy whenever a person is arrested or could have been arrested pursuant to statute for a violation of law which is punishable as a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor (Criminal Rules, CrRLJ 2.1(b)(1)).

409.4 PROHIBITIONS

The release of a suspected offender on a citation and notice to appear is not permitted when:

- (a) A person has been arrested pursuant to [RCW 10.31.100](#) (2), [RCW 26.50.110](#) (restraining orders).
- (b) A deputy has probable cause to believe that the person arrested has violated [RCW 46.61.502](#) (DUI) or [RCW 46.61.504](#) (physical control of a vehicle while DUI) or equivalent local ordinance and the deputy has knowledge that the person has a prior offense as defined in RCW 46.61.5055 (alcohol and drug violators) within the last 10 years, or that the person is charged with or is awaiting arraignment for an offense that would qualify as a prior offense under RCW 46.61.5055 if it were a conviction (RCW 10.31.100; Criminal Rules, CrRLJ 3.2(o)(3)).

See the Domestic Violence Policy for release restrictions related to those investigations.

409.5 CONSIDERATIONS

In determining whether to cite and release a person, deputies shall consider whether (Criminal Rules, CrRLJ 2.1(b)(2)):

- (a) The suspected offender has identified him/herself satisfactorily.
- (b) Detention appears reasonably necessary to prevent imminent bodily harm to the suspected offender or another, property damage or breach of the peace.

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- (c) The suspected offender has ties to the community reasonably sufficient to assure his/her appearance or whether there is substantial likelihood that he/she will refuse to respond to the citation and notice.
- (d) The suspected offender previously has failed to appear in response to a citation and notice issued pursuant to the court rule or to other lawful process.

Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Representatives

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to ensure that members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office extend appropriate privileges and immunities to foreign diplomatic and consular representatives in accordance with international law.

410.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office respects international laws related to the special privileges and immunities afforded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives assigned to the United States.

All foreign diplomatic and consular representatives shall be treated with respect and courtesy, regardless of any privileges or immunities afforded them.

410.3 CLAIMS OF IMMUNITY

If a member comes into contact with a person where law enforcement action may be warranted and the person claims diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, the member should, without delay:

- (a) Notify a supervisor.
- (b) Advise the person that his/her claim will be investigated and he/she may be released in accordance with the law upon confirmation of the person's status.
- (c) Request the person's identification card, either issued by the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Office of the Chief of Protocol, or in the case of persons accredited to the United Nations, by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. These are the only reliable documents for purposes of determining privileges and immunities.
- (d) Contact the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center at **571-345-3146** or toll free at **866-217-2089**, or at another current telephone number and inform the center of the circumstances.
- (e) Verify the immunity status with DOS and follow any instructions regarding further detention, arrest, prosecution and/or release, as indicated by the DOS representative. This may require immediate release, even if a crime has been committed.

Identity or immunity status should not be presumed from the type of license plates displayed on a vehicle. If there is a question as to the status or the legitimate possession of a Diplomat or Consul license plate, a query should be run via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), designating "US" as the state.

Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Representatives

410.4 ENFORCEMENT ACTION

If the DOS is not immediately available for consultation regarding law enforcement action, members shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Generally, all persons with diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may be issued a citation or notice to appear. However, the person may not be compelled to sign the citation.
- (b) All persons, even those with a valid privilege or immunity, may be reasonably restrained in exigent circumstances for purposes of self-defense, public safety, or the prevention of serious criminal acts.
- (c) An impaired foreign diplomatic or consular representative may be prevented from driving a vehicle, even if the person may not be arrested due to privileges and immunities.
 - 1. Investigations, including the request for field sobriety tests, chemical tests, and any other tests regarding impaired driving may proceed but they shall not be compelled.
- (d) The following persons may not be detained or arrested, and any property or vehicle owned by these persons may not be searched or seized:
 - 1. Diplomatic-level staff of missions to international organizations and recognized family members
 - 2. Diplomatic agents and recognized family members
 - 3. Members of administrative and technical staff of a diplomatic mission and recognized family members
 - 4. Career consular officers, unless the person is the subject of a felony warrant
- (e) The following persons may generally be detained and arrested:
 - 1. International organization staff; however, some senior officers are entitled to the same treatment as diplomatic agents.
 - 2. Support staff of missions to international organizations
 - 3. Diplomatic service staff and consular employees; however, special bilateral agreements may exclude employees of certain foreign countries.
 - 4. Honorary consular officers

410.5 DOCUMENTATION

All contacts with persons who have claimed privileges and immunities afforded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives should be thoroughly documented and the related reports forwarded to DOS.

410.6 DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY TABLE

Reference table on diplomatic immunity:

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Category	Arrested or Detained	Enter Residence Subject to Ordinary Procedures	Issued Traffic Citation	Subpoenaed as Witness	Prosecuted	Recognized Family Members
Diplomatic Agent	No (note b)	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Member of Admin and Tech Staff	No (note b)	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Service Staff	Yes (note a)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note a).	No immunity or inviolability (note a)
Career Consul Officer	Yes if for a felony and pursuant to a warrant (note a)	Yes (note d)	Yes	No for official acts. Testimony may not be compelled in any case.	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note a).	No immunity or inviolability
Honorable Consul Officer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts. Yes otherwise.	No for official acts. Yes otherwise.	No immunity or inviolability
Consulate Employees	Yes (note a)	Yes	Yes	No for official acts. Yes otherwise.	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note a).	No immunity or inviolability (note a)
Int'l Org Staff (note b)	Yes (note c)	Yes (note c)	Yes	Yes (note c)	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note c).	No immunity or inviolability
Diplomatic-Level Staff of Missions to Int'l Org	No (note b)	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Support Staff of Missions to Int'l Orgs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts. Yes otherwise.	No immunity or inviolability

Notes for diplomatic immunity table:

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- (a) This table presents general rules. The employees of certain foreign countries may enjoy higher levels of privileges and immunities on the basis of special bilateral agreements.
- (b) Reasonable constraints, however, may be applied in emergency circumstances involving self-defense, public safety, or in the prevention of serious criminal acts.
- (c) A small number of senior officers are entitled to be treated identically to diplomatic agents.
- (d) Note that consul residences are sometimes located within the official consular premises. In such cases, only the official office space is protected from police entry.

Rapid Response and Deployment

411.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Violence that is committed in schools, workplaces and other locations by individuals or a group of individuals who are determined to target and kill persons and to create mass casualties presents a difficult situation for law enforcement. The purpose of this policy is to identify guidelines and factors that will assist responding deputies in situations that call for rapid response and deployment.

411.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will endeavor to plan for rapid response to crisis situations, and to coordinate response planning with other emergency services as well as with those that are responsible for operating sites that may be the target of a critical incident.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the use of reasonable force, deadly or otherwise, by members of the Office in protecting themselves or others from death or serious injury.

411.3 CONSIDERATIONS

When dealing with a crisis situation members should:

- (a) Assess the immediate situation and take reasonable steps to maintain operative control of the incident.
- (b) Obtain, explore and analyze sources of intelligence and known information regarding the circumstances, location and suspect involved in the incident.
- (c) Attempt to attain a tactical advantage over the suspect by reducing, preventing or eliminating any known or perceived threat.
- (d) Attempt, if feasible and based upon the suspect's actions and danger to others, a negotiated surrender of the suspect and release of the hostages.

411.4 FIRST RESPONSE

If there is a reasonable belief that acts or threats by a suspect are placing lives in imminent danger, first responding deputies should consider reasonable options to reduce, prevent or eliminate the threat. Deputies must decide, often under a multitude of difficult and rapidly evolving circumstances, whether to advance on the suspect, take other actions to deal with the threat or wait for additional resources.

If a suspect is actively engaged in the infliction of serious bodily harm or other life-threatening activity toward others, deputies should take immediate action, if reasonably practicable, while requesting additional assistance.

Deputies should remain aware of the possibility that an incident may be part of a coordinated multi-location attack that may require some capacity to respond to other incidents at other locations.

When deciding on a course of action deputies should consider:

Rapid Response and Deployment

- (a) Whether to advance on or engage a suspect who is still a possible or perceived threat to others. Any advance or engagement should be made based on information known or received at the time.
- (b) Whether to wait for additional resources or personnel, This does not preclude an individual deputy from taking immediate action.
- (c) Whether individuals who are under imminent threat can be moved or evacuated with reasonable safety.
- (d) Whether the suspect can be contained or denied access to victims.
- (e) Whether the deputies have the ability to effectively communicate with other personnel or resources.
- (f) Whether planned tactics can be effectively deployed.
- (g) The availability of rifles, shotguns, shields, breaching tools, control devices and any other appropriate tools, and whether the deployment of these tools will provide a tactical advantage.

In a case of a barricaded suspect with no hostages and no immediate threat to others, deputies should consider summoning and waiting for additional assistance (special tactics and/or hostage negotiation team response).

411.5 PLANNING

The Patrol Division Chief should coordinate critical incident planning. Planning efforts should consider:

- (a) Identification of likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment and sporting event venues.
- (b) Availability of building plans and venue schematics of likely critical incident target sites.
- (c) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.
- (d) Training opportunities in critical incident target sites, including joint training with site occupants.
- (e) Evacuation routes in critical incident target sites.
- (f) Patrol first-response training.
- (g) Response coordination and resources of emergency medical and fire services.
- (h) Equipment needs.
- (i) Mutual aid agreements with other agencies.
- (j) Coordination with private security providers in critical incident target sites.

411.6 SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

The Patrol Division Chief should establish protocols for public and private school notification in the event an incident reasonably appears to require a lockdown or evacuation. Protocols

Rapid Response and Deployment

should include notification to all known schools in the vicinity of the incident that may be similarly threatened ([RCW 28A.320.125](#)).

411.7 TRAINING

The Training Manager should include rapid response to critical incidents in the training plan. This training should address:

- (a) Orientation to likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment and sporting event venues.
- (b) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.
- (c) Patrol first-response training, including patrol rifle, shotgun, breaching tool and control device training.
- (d) First aid, including gunshot trauma.
- (e) Reality-based scenario training (e.g., active shooter, disgruntled violent worker).

Immigration Violations

412.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office relating to immigration laws and interacting with federal immigration officials ([RCW 43.10.315](#)).

412.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that all members make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this office in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their national origin or immigration status.

412.3 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

To encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of law enforcement will not automatically lead to immigration inquiry and/or deportation. While it may be necessary to determine the identity of a victim or witness, members shall treat all individuals equally and not in any way that would violate the United States or Washington constitutions.

412.4 FEDERAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Requests by federal immigration officials for assistance from this office should be directed to a supervisor. The Office may provide available support services, such as traffic control or peacekeeping efforts.

412.5 INFORMATION SHARING

No member of this office will prohibit, or in any way restrict, any other member from doing any of the following regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual (8 USC § 1373; RCW 2.28.310):

- (a) Sending information to, or requesting or receiving such information from federal immigration officials
- (b) Maintaining such information in office records
- (c) Exchanging such information with any other federal, state, or local government entity

412.6 WASHINGTON STATE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

Members shall not (RCW 10.93.160):

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Immigration Violations

- (a) Inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth unless there is a connection between such information and an investigation into a violation of state or local criminal law.
- (b) Provide information pursuant to notification requests from federal immigration authorities for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by law.
- (c) Provide nonpublicly available personal information about an individual to federal immigration authorities in a noncriminal matter, except as required by state or federal law.
- (d) Give federal immigration authorities access to interview individuals about a noncriminal matter while they are in custody, except as required by state or federal law, a court order, or written consent of the individual.
- (e) Allow a federal immigration authority to conduct an interview regarding federal immigration violations with a person who is in custody if the person has not consented in writing to be interviewed. In order to obtain consent, the person shall be provided with an oral explanation and a written consent form that explains the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary, and that the person may decline to be interviewed or may choose to be interviewed only with the person's attorney present.
- (f) Detain individuals solely for the purpose of determining their immigration status.
- (g) Take a person into custody or hold a person in custody:
 - 1. Solely for the purposes of determining immigration status
 - 2. Based solely on a civil immigration warrant issued by a federal immigration authority
 - 3. On an immigration hold request

412.6.1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Members who are school resource officers shall not ([RCW 10.93.160](#)):

- (a) Inquire or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth.
- (b) Provide information pursuant to notification requests from federal immigration officials for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by law.

412.7 DEFINITIONS

- **U nonimmigrant Visas** provide legal status to victims of an enumerated list of "qualifying criminal activities" who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse, and possess information concerning that crime, and who have been, are being, or are likely to be helpful to law enforcement or government officials.
- **T nonimmigrant Visas** provide legal status to certain victims of human trafficking who assist law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of trafficking crimes.

Immigration Violations

412.8 U VISA AND T VISA NONIMMIGRANT STATUS

Under certain circumstances, federal law allows temporary immigration benefits, known as a U visa, to victims and witnesses of certain qualifying crimes (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(U)).

Similar immigration protection, known as a T visa, is available for certain qualifying victims of human trafficking (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(T)).

Any request for assistance in applying for U visa or T visa status should be forwarded in a timely manner to the Detective Unit supervisor assigned to oversee the handling of any related case. The Detective Unit supervisor should:

- (a) Consult with the assigned investigator to determine the current status of any related case and whether further documentation is warranted.
- (b) Contact the appropriate prosecutor assigned to the case, if applicable, to ensure the certification or declaration has not already been completed and whether a certification or declaration is warranted.
- (c) Address the request and complete the certification or declaration, if appropriate, in a timely manner ([RCW 7.98.020](#)).
 - 1. The instructions for completing certification and declaration forms can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website.
- (d) Ensure that any decision to complete, or not complete, a certification or declaration form is documented in the case file and forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. Include a copy of any completed form in the case file.

412.8.1 TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETION

The Detective Unit supervisor should ensure that the certification for the U visa or T visa is processed within 90 days of the request, unless the victim is in federal immigration removal proceedings, in which case the certification shall be executed within 14 days after the request is received. The certification may be withdrawn only if the victim unreasonably refuses to provide information and assistance related to the investigation or prosecution of the associated criminal activity when reasonably requested by the Office (RCW 7.98.020).

412.8.2 U VISA AND T VISA DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

The Detective Unit supervisor shall keep written documentation regarding the number of certification forms that are (RCW 7.98.020):

- (a) Requested by a victim.
- (b) Signed.
- (c) Denied.
- (d) Withdrawn.

The Detective Unit supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure that the information collected regarding certification forms is reported annually to the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (RCW 7.98.020).

Immigration Violations

412.8.3 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Personal identifying information or information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any victim of criminal activity or trafficking who is requesting a certification shall not be disclosed except when allowed by law (RCW 7.98.020). See also the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

412.9 TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure that deputies receive training on this policy.

Training should include:

- (a) Identifying civil versus criminal immigration violations.
- (b) Factors that may be considered in determining whether a criminal immigration offense has been committed.
- (c) Statutory limitations on immigration enforcement.
- (d) U visa and T visa certification training.
- (e) Appropriate information sharing pursuant to 8 USC § 1373.

Emergency Utility Service

413.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The County Public Works Department has personnel available to handle emergency calls 24 hours per day. Calls for service during non-business hours are frequently directed to the Sheriff's Office. Requests for such service received by this office should be handled in the following manner.

413.1.1 BROKEN WATER LINES

The County's responsibility ends at the water meter; any break or malfunction in the water system from the water meter to the citizen's residence or business is the customer's responsibility. Public Works can only turn off the valve at the meter. The citizen can normally accomplish this.

If a break occurs on the County side of the meter, emergency personnel should be called as soon as practical by Dispatch.

413.1.2 ELECTRICAL LINES

When a power line poses a hazard, a deputy should be dispatched to protect against personal injury or property damage that might be caused by power lines. The Skamania County Public Works should be promptly notified, as appropriate.

413.1.3 RESERVOIRS, PUMPS, WELLS, ETC.

PacifiCorp maintains the Swift reservoir within Skamania County. The Skamania County Public Works maintains public water equipment, as well as several underpass and other street drainage pumps. In the event of flooding or equipment malfunctions within Skamania County, emergency personnel should be contacted as soon as possible. The City of North Bonneville and the City of Stevenson maintains their respective city water equipment and emergency personnel should be contacted as soon as possible in the event of a problem within those city limits.

413.1.4 EMERGENCY NUMBERS

A current list of emergency personnel who are to be called for municipal utility emergencies is maintained by Dispatch.

413.2 TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE

The County of Skamania contracts with a private maintenance company to furnish maintenance for all traffic signals within the County, other than those maintained by the State of Washington.

413.2.1 DEPUTY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Upon observing a damaged or malfunctioning signal, the deputy will advise the Dispatch of the location and problem with the signal. The dispatcher should make the necessary notification to the proper maintenance agency.

Field Training Officer Program

414.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Field Training Officer Program is intended to provide a standardized program to facilitate the deputy's transition from the academic setting to the actual performance of general law enforcement duties of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

It is the policy of this office to assign all new sheriff's deputies to a structured Field Training Officer Program that is designed to prepare the new deputy to perform in a patrol assignment possessing all skills needed to operate in a safe, productive and professional manner.

414.2 FIELD TRAINING OFFICER SELECTION AND TRAINING

The Field Training Officer (FTO) is an experienced deputy trained in the art of supervising, training and evaluating entry level and lateral sheriff's deputies in the application of their previously acquired knowledge and skills.

414.2.1 SELECTION PROCESS

FTOs will be selected based on the following requirements:

- (a) Desire to be an FTO.
- (b) Minimum of three years of patrol experience, two of which shall be with this office.
- (c) Demonstrated ability as a positive role model.
- (d) Participate and pass an internal oral interview selection process.
- (e) Evaluation by supervisors and current FTOs.
- (f) Holds a valid Peace Officer Certificate with CJTC.

414.2.2 TRAINING

A deputy selected as a Field Training Officer shall successfully complete a CJTC Certified (40-hour) Field Training Officer's Course prior to being assigned as an FTO.

414.3 FIELD TRAINING OFFICER PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

The Field Training Officer Program supervisor will be selected from the rank of Sergeant or above by the Patrol Division Chief or his/her designee and shall possess a CJTC Supervisory Certificate.

The responsibilities of the FTO Program Supervisor include the following:

- (a) Assignment of trainees to FTOs.
- (b) Conduct FTO meetings.
- (c) Maintain and ensure FTO/Trainee performance evaluations are completed.

Field Training Officer Program

- (d) Maintain, update and issue the Field Training Manual to each trainee.
- (e) Monitor individual FTO performance.
- (f) Monitor overall FTO Program.
- (g) Maintain liaison with FTO Coordinators of other agencies.
- (h) Maintain liaison with academy staff on recruit performance during the academy.
- (i) Develop ongoing training for FTOs.

414.4 TRAINEE DEFINED

Any entry level or lateral sheriff's deputy newly appointed to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office who has successfully completed a CJTC approved Basic Academy.

414.5 REQUIRED TRAINING

Entry level deputies shall be required to successfully complete the Field Training Program, consisting of a minimum of 10 work cycles.

The training period for lateral deputies may be modified depending on the trainee's demonstrated performance and level of experience, but shall consist of a minimum of eight work cycles.

To the extent practicable, entry level and lateral deputies should be assigned to a variety of Field Training Officers, shifts and geographical areas during their Field Training Program.

414.5.1 FIELD TRAINING MANUAL

Each new deputy will be issued a Field Training Manual at the beginning of his/her Primary Training Phase. This manual is an outline of the subject matter and/or skills necessary to properly function as a deputy with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The deputy shall become knowledgeable of the subject matter as outlined. He/she shall also become proficient with those skills as set forth in the manual.

The Field Training Manual will specifically cover those policies, procedures, rules and regulations enacted by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

414.6 EVALUATIONS

Evaluations are an important component of the training process and shall be completed as outlined below.

414.6.1 FIELD TRAINING OFFICER

The FTO will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Complete and submit a written evaluation on the performance of his/her assigned trainee to the FTO program supervisor on a daily basis.

Field Training Officer Program

- (b) Review the Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations with the trainee each day. (Daily Observation Report (D.O.R.)
- (c) Complete a detailed end-of-phase performance evaluation on his/her assigned trainee at the end of each phase of training.
- (d) Sign off all completed topics contained in the Field Training Manual, noting the method(s) of learning and evaluating the performance of his/her assigned trainee.

414.6.2 IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR

The immediate supervisor shall review and approve the Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations and forward them to the Field Training Administrator.

414.6.3 FIELD TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR

The Field Training Administrator will review and approve the Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations/Daily Observation Report submitted by the FTO through his/her immediate supervisor.

414.6.4 TRAINEE

At the completion of the Field Training Program, the trainee shall submit a confidential performance evaluation on each of their FTO's and on the Field Training Program.

414.7 DOCUMENTATION

All documentation of the Field Training Program will be retained in the deputy's training files and will consist of the following:

- (a) Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations. Daily Observation Report (D.O.R.)
- (b) End of phase evaluations.
- (c) A Certificate of Completion certifying that the trainee has successfully completed the required number of hours of field training.

Aircraft Accidents

415.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide office members with guidelines for handling aircraft accidents.

This policy does not supersede, and is supplementary to, applicable portions of the Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity, Emergency Management Plan and Hazardous Material Response policies.

415.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Aircraft - Any fixed wing aircraft, rotorcraft, balloon, blimp/dirigible or glider that is capable of carrying a person or any unmanned aerial vehicle other than those intended for non-commercial recreational use.

415.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to provide an appropriate emergency response to aircraft accidents. This includes emergency medical care and scene management.

415.3 ARRIVAL AT SCENE

Deputies or other authorized members tasked with initial scene management should establish an inner and outer perimeter to:

- (a) Protect persons and property.
- (b) Prevent any disturbance or further damage to the wreckage or debris, except to preserve life or rescue the injured.
- (c) Preserve ground scars and marks made by the aircraft.
- (d) Manage the admission and access of public safety and medical personnel to the extent necessary to preserve life or to stabilize hazardous materials.
- (e) Maintain a record of persons who enter the accident site.
- (f) Consider implementation of an Incident Command System (ICS).

415.4 INJURIES AND CASUALTIES

Members should address emergency medical issues and provide care as a first priority.

Those tasked with the supervision of the scene should coordinate with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) before the removal of bodies. If that is not possible, the scene supervisor should ensure documentation of what was disturbed, including switch/control positions and instrument/gauge readings.

Aircraft Accidents

415.5 NOTIFICATIONS

When an aircraft accident is reported to this office, the responding supervisor shall ensure notification is or has been made to NTSB, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and when applicable, the appropriate branch of the military.

Supervisors shall ensure other notifications are made once an aircraft accident has been reported. The notifications will vary depending on the type of accident, extent of injuries or damage, and the type of aircraft involved. When an aircraft accident has occurred, it is generally necessary to notify the following:

- (a) Fire department
- (b) Appropriate airport tower
- (c) Emergency medical services (EMS)

415.6 CONTROLLING ACCESS AND SCENE AUTHORITY

Prior to NTSB arrival, scene access should be limited to authorized personnel from the:

- (a) FAA.
- (b) Fire department, EMS or other assisting law enforcement agencies.
- (c) Coroner.
- (d) Air Carrier/Operators investigative teams with NTSB approval.
- (e) Appropriate branch of the military, when applicable.
- (f) Other emergency services agencies (e.g., hazardous materials teams, biohazard decontamination teams, fuel recovery specialists, explosive ordnance disposal specialists).

The NTSB has primary responsibility for investigating accidents involving civil aircraft. In the case of a military aircraft accident, the appropriate branch of the military will have primary investigation responsibility.

After the NTSB or military representative arrives on-scene, the efforts of this office will shift to a support role for those agencies.

If NTSB or a military representative determines that an aircraft or accident does not qualify under its jurisdiction, the on-scene office supervisor should ensure the accident is still appropriately investigated and documented.

415.7 DANGEROUS MATERIALS

Members should be aware of potentially dangerous materials that might be present. Refer to Hazardous Material Response (policy **406**.) These may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Fuel, chemicals, explosives, biological or radioactive materials and bombs or other ordnance.
- (b) Pressure vessels, compressed gas bottles, accumulators and tires.

Aircraft Accidents

- (c) Fluids, batteries, flares and igniters.
- (d) Evacuation chutes, ballistic parachute systems and composite materials.

415.8 DOCUMENTATION

All aircraft accidents occurring within the County of Skamania shall be documented. At a minimum the documentation should include the date, time and location of the incident; any witness statements, if taken; the names of SCSO members deployed to assist; other County resources that were utilized; and cross reference information to other investigating agencies. Suspected criminal activity should be documented on the appropriate crime report.

415.8.1 WRECKAGE

When reasonably safe, members should:

- (a) Obtain the aircraft registration number (N number) and note the type of aircraft.
- (b) Attempt to ascertain the number of casualties.
- (c) Obtain photographs or video of the overall wreckage, including the cockpit and damage, starting at the initial point of impact, if possible, and any ground scars or marks made by the aircraft.
 - 1. Military aircraft may contain classified equipment and therefore shall not be photographed unless authorized by a military commanding officer (18 USC § 795).
- (d) Secure, if requested by the lead authority, any electronic data or video recorders from the aircraft that became dislodged or cell phones or other recording devices that are part of the wreckage.
- (e) Acquire copies of any recordings from security cameras that may have captured the incident.

415.8.2 WITNESSES

Members tasked with contacting witnesses should obtain:

- (a) The location of the witness at the time of his/her observation relative to the accident site.
- (b) A detailed description of what was observed or heard.
- (c) Any photographs or recordings of the accident witnesses may be willing to voluntarily surrender.
- (d) The names of all persons reporting the accident, even if not yet interviewed.
- (e) Any audio recordings of reports to 9-1-1 regarding the accident and dispatch records.

415.9 MEDIA RELATIONS

The Public Information Officer (PIO) should coordinate a response to the media, including access issues, road closures, detours and any safety information that is pertinent to the surrounding community. Any release of information regarding details of the accident itself should

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be coordinated with the NTSB or other authority who may have assumed responsibility for the investigation.

Depending on the type of aircraft, the airline or the military may be responsible for family notifications and the release of victims' names. The PIO should coordinate with other involved entities before the release of information.

Obtaining Air Support

416.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of air support can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies potential situations where the use of an aircraft or helicopter may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

416.2 REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE

If a supervisor or deputy in charge of an incident determines that the use of an aircraft or helicopter would be beneficial, a request to obtain such assistance may be made.

416.2.1 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER AGENCY

After consideration and approval of the request for an air asset, the Shift Sergeant, or his/her designee, will call the closest agency having aircraft/helicopter support available. The Shift Sergeant on duty will apprise that agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.

416.2.2 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AID MAY BE REQUESTED

Air Support may be requested under any of the following conditions:

- (a) When the aircraft or helicopter is activated under existing mutual aid agreements.
- (b) Whenever the safety of law enforcement personnel is in jeopardy and the presence of the aircraft or helicopters may reduce such hazard.
- (c) When the use of the aircraft or helicopters will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to the community.
- (d) When an aircraft or helicopter is needed to locate a person who has strayed or is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard. (Search & Rescue S.A.R.)
- (e) Vehicle pursuits.

While it is recognized that the availability of helicopter support will generally provide valuable assistance to ground personnel, the presence of a helicopter will rarely replace the need for deputies on the ground.

Contacts and Temporary Detentions

417.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for temporarily detaining (**WITHOUT FORCE**) but not arresting persons in the field, conducting field interviews (FI) and pat-down searches, and the taking and disposition of photographs.

417.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Consensual encounter - When a deputy contacts an individual but does not create a detention through words, actions, or other means. In other words, a reasonable individual would believe that his/her contact with the deputy is voluntary.

Field interview (FI) - The brief detainment of an individual, whether on foot or in a vehicle, based on reasonable suspicion for the purposes of determining the individual's identity and resolving the deputy's suspicions.

Field photographs - Posed photographs taken of a person during a contact, detention, or arrest in the field. Undercover surveillance photographs of an individual and recordings captured by the normal operation of a Mobile Audio Video (MAV) system, body-worn camera, or public safety camera when persons are not posed for the purpose of photographing are not considered field photographs.

Pat-down search - A type of search used by deputies in the field to check an individual for dangerous weapons. It involves a thorough patting down of clothing to locate any weapons or dangerous items that could pose a danger to the deputy, the detainee, or others.

Reasonable suspicion - When, under the totality of the circumstances, a deputy has articulable facts that criminal activity may be afoot and a particular person is connected with that possible criminal activity.

Temporary detention - When a deputy intentionally, through words, actions or physical force, causes an individual to reasonably believe he/she is required to restrict his/her movement without an actual arrest. Temporary detentions also occur when a deputy actually restrains a person's freedom of movement.

417.2 FIELD INTERVIEWS

Based on observance of suspicious circumstances or upon information from an investigation, a deputy may initiate the stop of a person, and conduct an FI, when there is articulable, reasonable suspicion to do so. **Force may not be used to any degree to detain a person without first establishing probable cause.** A person, however, shall not be detained longer than is reasonably necessary to resolve the deputy's suspicion.

Nothing in this policy is intended to discourage consensual contacts. Frequent casual contact with consenting individuals is encouraged by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to strengthen community involvement, community awareness, and problem identification.

Contacts and Temporary Detentions

417.2.1 INITIATING A FIELD INTERVIEW

When initiating the stop, the deputy should be able to point to specific facts which, when considered with the totality of the circumstances, reasonably warrant the stop. Such facts include but are not limited to an individual's:

- (a) Appearance or demeanor suggesting that he/she is part of a criminal enterprise or is engaged in a criminal act.
- (b) Actions suggesting that he/she is engaged in a criminal activity.
- (c) Presence in an area at an inappropriate hour of the day or night.
- (d) Presence in a particular area is suspicious.
- (e) Carrying of suspicious objects or items.
- (f) Excessive clothes for the climate or clothes bulging in a manner that suggests he/she is carrying a dangerous weapon.
- (g) Location in proximate time and place to an alleged crime.
- (h) Physical description or clothing worn that matches a suspect in a recent crime.
- (i) Prior criminal record or involvement in criminal activity as known by the deputy.

417.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office respects the right of the public to be free from unreasonable searches or seizures. Due to an unlimited variety of situations confronting the deputy, the decision to temporarily detain a person and complete an FI, pat-down search, or field photograph shall be left to the deputy based on the totality of the circumstances, officer safety considerations, and constitutional safeguards.

417.3 PAT-DOWN SEARCHES

Once a valid stop has been made, and consistent with the deputy's training and experience, a deputy may pat a suspect's outer clothing for weapons if the deputy has a reasonable, articulable suspicion the suspect may pose a safety risk. The purpose of this limited search is not to discover evidence of a crime, but to allow the deputy to pursue the investigation without fear of violence. Circumstances that may establish justification for performing a pat-down search include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) The type of crime suspected, particularly in crimes of violence where the use or threat of deadly weapons is involved.
- (b) Where more than one suspect must be handled by a single deputy.
- (c) The hour of the day and the location or neighborhood where the stop takes place.
- (d) Prior knowledge of the suspect's use of force and/or propensity to carry weapons.
- (e) The actions and demeanor of the suspect.
- (f) Visual indications which suggest that the suspect is carrying a firearm or other dangerous weapon.

Contacts and Temporary Detentions

Whenever practicable, pat-down searches should not be conducted by a lone deputy. A cover deputy should be positioned to ensure safety and should not be involved in the search.

417.4 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

All available databases should be searched before photographing any field detainee. If a photograph is not located, or if an existing photograph no longer resembles the detainee, the deputy shall carefully consider, among other things, the factors listed below.

417.4.1 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITH CONSENT

Field photographs may be taken when the subject of the photograph knowingly and voluntarily gives consent..

417.4.2 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITHOUT CONSENT

Field photographs may be taken without consent only if they are taken during a detention that is based on reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, and the photograph serves a legitimate law enforcement purpose related to the detention. The deputy must be able to articulate facts that reasonably indicate that the subject was involved in or was about to become involved in criminal conduct. The subject should not be ordered to remove or lift any clothing for the purpose of taking a photograph.

If, prior to taking a photograph, the deputy's reasonable suspicion of criminal activity has been dispelled, the detention must cease and the photograph should not be taken.

All field photographs and related reports shall be submitted to a supervisor and retained in compliance with this policy.

417.4.3 DISPOSITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

All detainee photographs must be adequately labeled and submitted to the Shift Sergeant with either an associated FI card or other documentation explaining the nature of the contact. If an individual is photographed as a suspect in a particular crime, the photograph should be submitted as an evidence item in the related case, following standard evidence procedures.

If a photograph is not associated with an investigation where a case number has been issued, the Shift Sergeant should review and forward the photograph to one of the following locations:

- (a) If the photo and associated FI or memorandum is relevant to criminal organization/enterprise enforcement, the Shift Sergeant will forward the photo and documents to the designated criminal intelligence system supervisor. The supervisor will ensure the photograph and supporting documents are retained as prescribed in the Criminal Organizations **Policy 419**.
- (b) Photographs that do not qualify for retention in a criminal intelligence system or temporary information file shall be forwarded to the Records Section.

When a photograph is taken in association with a particular case, the investigator may use such photograph in a photo lineup. Thereafter, the individual photograph should be retained as a part

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of the case file. All other photographs shall be retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

417.4.4 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

While it is recognized that field photographs often become valuable investigative tools, supervisors should monitor such practices in view of the above listed considerations. This is not to imply that supervisor approval is required before each photograph is taken.

Access to, and use of, field photographs shall be strictly limited to law enforcement purposes.

417.5 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an incident may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, deputies should, when warranted by the seriousness of the case, take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with an on-scene supervisor and/or criminal investigator to utilize available members for the following:

- (a) Identifying all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.
 - 1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
 - 2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose of identification, [officers/deputies] should attempt to identify the witness prior to his/her departure.
- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by office members.
 - 1. A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transport.

Criminal Organizations

418.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Skamania County Sheriff's Office appropriately utilizes criminal intelligence systems and temporary information files to support investigations of criminal organizations and enterprises.

418.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Criminal intelligence system - Any record system that receives, stores, exchanges or disseminates information that has been evaluated and determined to be relevant to the identification of a criminal organization or enterprise, its members or affiliates. This does not include temporary information files.

Criminal Street Gang - means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, and whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity. This definition does not apply to employees engaged in concerted activities for their mutual aid and protection, or to the activities of labor and bona fide nonprofit organizations or their members or agents.

Criminal Street Gang Associate or Member - means any person who actively participates in any criminal street gang and who intentionally promotes, furthers, or assists in any criminal act by the criminal street gang.

Criminal Street Gang-Related Offense - means any felony or misdemeanor offense, whether in this state or elsewhere, that is committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang, or is committed with the intent to promote, further, or assist in any criminal conduct by the gang, or is committed for one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) To gain admission, prestige, or promotion within the gang;
- (b) To increase or maintain the gang's size, membership, prestige, dominance, or control in any geographical area;
- (c) To exact revenge or retribution for the gang or any member of the gang;
- (d) To obstruct justice, or intimidate or eliminate any witness against the gang or any member of the gang;
- (e) To directly or indirectly cause any benefit, aggrandizement, gain, profit, or other advantage for the gang, its reputation, influence, or membership; (See Also [RCW 9.94A.030](#))

Criminal Organizations

418.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes that certain criminal activities, including but not limited to gang crimes and drug trafficking, often involve some degree of regular coordination and may involve a large number of participants over a broad geographical area.

It is the policy of this office to collect and share relevant information while respecting the privacy and legal rights of the public.

418.3 CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

No office member may create, submit to or obtain information from a criminal intelligence system unless the Sheriff has approved the system for office use.

Any criminal intelligence system approved for office use should meet or exceed the standards of 28 CFR 23.20 and RCW 43.43.762.

A designated supervisor will be responsible for maintaining each criminal intelligence system that has been approved for office use. The supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure the following:

- (a) Members using any such system are appropriately selected and trained.
- (b) Use of every criminal intelligence system is appropriately reviewed and audited.
- (c) Any system security issues are reasonably addressed.

418.3.1 SYSTEM ENTRIES

It is the designated supervisor's responsibility to approve the entry of any information from a report, FI, photo or other relevant document into an authorized criminal intelligence system. If entries are made based upon information that is not on file with this office, such as open or public source documents or documents that are on file at another agency, the designated supervisor should ensure copies of those documents are retained by the Records Section. Any supporting documentation for an entry shall be retained by the Records Section in accordance with the established records retention schedule and for at least as long as the entry is maintained in the system.

The designated supervisor should ensure that any documents retained by the Records Section are appropriately marked as intelligence information. The Chief Civil Deputy may not purge such documents without the approval of the designated supervisor.

418.3.2 SYSTEM ENTRIES

It is the designated supervisor's responsibility to approve the entry of any information into a criminal intelligence system operated by the state patrol and authorized by [RCW 43.43.762](#) . Entries into such a database shall be based upon reasonable suspicion of criminal activity or actual criminal activity, and must be supported by documentation, where documentation is available (RCW 43.43.762(2)).

Criminal Organizations

418.4 TEMPORARY INFORMATION FILE

No member may create or keep files on individuals that are separate from the approved criminal intelligence system. However, members may maintain temporary information that is necessary to actively investigate whether a person or group qualifies for entry into the office-approved CIS only as provided in this section. Once information qualifies for inclusion, it should be submitted to the supervisor responsible for consideration of CIS entries.

418.4.1 FILE CONTENTS

A temporary information file may only contain information and documents that, within one year, will have a reasonable likelihood to meet the criteria for entry into an authorized criminal intelligence system.

Information and documents contained in a temporary information file:

- (a) Must only be included upon documented authorization of the responsible office supervisor.
- (b) Should not be originals that would ordinarily be retained by the Records Section or Evidence Room, but should be copies of, or references to, retained documents, such as copies of reports, field interview (FI) forms, Dispatch records or booking forms.
- (c) Shall not include opinions. No person, organization or enterprise shall be labeled as being involved in crime beyond what is already in the document or information.
- (d) May include information collected from publicly available sources or references to documents on file with another government agency. Attribution identifying the source should be retained with the information.

418.4.2 FILE REVIEW AND PURGING

The contents of a temporary information file shall not be retained longer than one year. At the end of one year, the contents must be purged in compliance with the office records retention schedule or entered in an authorized criminal intelligence system, as applicable.

The designated supervisor shall periodically review the temporary information files to verify that the contents meet the criteria for retention. Validation and purging of files is the responsibility of the supervisor.

418.5 INFORMATION RECOGNITION

Office members should document facts that suggest an individual, organization or enterprise is involved in criminal activity and should forward that information appropriately. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Gang indicia associated with a person or residence.
- (b) Information related to a drug-trafficking operation.
- (c) Vandalism indicating an animus for a particular group.
- (d) Information related to an illegal gambling operation.

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Office supervisors who utilize an authorized criminal intelligence system should work with the Training Manager to train members to identify information that may be particularly relevant for inclusion.

418.6 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Office members shall comply with the rules of an authorized criminal intelligence system regarding inquiries and release of information.

Information from a temporary information file may only be furnished to office members and other law enforcement agencies on a need-to-know basis and consistent with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

When an inquiry is made by the parent or guardian of a juvenile as to whether that juvenile's name is in a temporary information file, such information should be provided by the supervisor responsible for the temporary information file, unless there is good cause to believe that the release of such information might jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.

418.7 CRIMINAL STREET GANGS

The Detective Unit supervisor should ensure that there are an appropriate number of office members who can:

- (a) Testify as experts on matters related to criminal street gangs, and maintain an above average familiarity with identification of criminal street gangs, criminal street gang members and patterns of criminal gang activity.
- (b) Train other members to identify gang indicia and investigate criminal street gang-related crimes.

418.8 TRAINING

The Training Manager should provide training on best practices in the use of each authorized criminal intelligence system to those tasked with investigating criminal organizations and enterprises. Training should include:

- (a) The protection of civil liberties
- (b) Participation in a multi-agency criminal intelligence system.
- (c) Submission of information into a multi-agency criminal intelligence system or the receipt of information from such a system, including any governing federal and state rules and statutes.
- (d) The type of information appropriate for entry into a criminal intelligence system or temporary information file.
- (e) The review and purging of temporary information files.

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- (f) All users of the Washington criminal street gang database shall receive training on its use prior to accessing the database (RCW 43.43.762).

Shift Sergeants

419.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Each patrol shift must be directed by supervisors who are capable of making decisions and communicating in a manner consistent with office policies, procedures, practices, functions and objectives. To accomplish this goal, a Shift Sergeant is responsible for each patrol shift.

419.2 DESIGNATION AS ACTING SUPERVISOR

When a Shift Sergeant is unavailable for duty as the on duty supervisor, in most instances the senior qualified Deputy shall be designated as acting supervisor. This policy does not preclude designating a less senior Deputy as an acting supervisor when operational needs require or training permits. This designation will only occur when a Shift Sergeant is not on-duty and unavailable by phone or other means for contact. Every effort should be made to contact a Shift Sergeant when practicable.

Mobile Data Center Use

420.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper access, use and application of the Mobile Data Center (MDC) system in order to ensure appropriate access to confidential records from local, state and national law enforcement databases, and to ensure effective electronic communications between office members and Dispatch.

420.2 POLICY

Skamania County Sheriff's Office members using the MDC shall comply with all appropriate federal and state rules and regulations and shall use the MDC in a professional manner, in accordance with this policy.

420.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to messages accessed, transmitted, received or reviewed on any office technology system (see the Information Technology Use Policy for additional guidance).

420.4 RESTRICTED ACCESS AND USE

MDC use is subject to the Information Technology Use and Protected Information policies.

Members shall not access the MDC system if they have not received prior authorization and the required training. Members shall immediately report unauthorized access or use of the MDC by another member to their supervisors or Shift Sergeants.

Use of the MDC system to access law enforcement databases or transmit messages is restricted to official activities, business-related tasks and communications that are directly related to the business, administration or practices of the Office. In the event that a member has questions about sending a particular message or accessing a particular database, the member should seek prior approval from his/her supervisor.

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the MDC system is prohibited and may result in discipline.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message or access a law enforcement database under another member's name or to use the password of another member to log in to the MDC system unless directed to do so by a supervisor. Members are required to log off the MDC or secure the MDC when it is unattended. This added security measure will minimize the potential for unauthorized access or misuse.

420.4.1 USE WHILE DRIVING

Use of the MDC by the vehicle operator should be limited to times when the vehicle is stopped. Information that is required for immediate enforcement, investigative, tactical or safety needs should be transmitted over the radio.

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In no case shall an operator attempt to send or review lengthy messages while the vehicle is in motion.

420.5 DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITY

Except as otherwise directed by the Shift Sergeant or other office-established protocol, all calls for service assigned by a dispatcher should be communicated by voice over the sheriff's radio and electronically via the MDC unless security or confidentiality prevents such broadcasting.

MDC and voice transmissions are used to document the member's daily activity. To ensure accuracy:

- (a) All contacts or activity shall be documented at the time of the contact.
- (b) Whenever the activity or contact is initiated by voice, it should be documented by a dispatcher.
- (c) Whenever the activity or contact is not initiated by voice, the member shall document it via the MDC.

420.5.1 STATUS CHANGES

All changes in status (e.g., arrival at scene, meal periods, in service) will be transmitted over the sheriff's radio or through the MDC system.

Members responding to in-progress calls should advise changes in status over the radio to assist other members responding to the same incident. Other changes in status can be made on the MDC when the vehicle is not in motion.

420.5.2 EMERGENCY ACTIVATION

If there is an emergency activation and the member does not respond to a request for confirmation of the need for emergency assistance or confirms the need, available resources will be sent to assist in locating the member. If the location is known, the nearest available deputy should respond in accordance with the Deputy Response to Calls Policy.

Members should ensure a field supervisor and the Shift Sergeant are notified of the incident without delay.

Deputies not responding to the emergency shall refrain from transmitting on the sheriff's radio until a no-further-assistance broadcast is made or if they are also handling an emergency.

420.6 EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Deputies are reminded that the MDC is a delicate piece of electronic equipment. Extreme care should be used when removing or installing the MDC. Also, Deputies should not place any drinks or liquids near the MDC.

420.6.1 MALFUNCTIONING MDC

Whenever possible, members will not use vehicles with malfunctioning MDCs. Whenever members must drive a vehicle in which the MDC is not working, they shall notify Dispatch. It shall

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be the responsibility of the dispatcher to document all information that will then be transmitted verbally over the sheriff's radio.

420.6.2 BOMB CALLS

When investigating reports of possible bombs, members should not communicate on their MDCs when in the evacuation area of a suspected explosive device. Radio frequency emitted by the MDC could cause some devices to detonate.

Body Worn Cameras/Audio/Video Recorders

421.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of portable audio/video recording devices to include body-worn cameras (BWC) by members of this office while in the performance of their duties ([RCW 10.109.010](#)). Portable audio/video recording devices include all recording systems whether body-worn, hand held or integrated into portable equipment.

This policy does not apply to mobile audio/video recordings, interviews or interrogations conducted at any Skamania County Sheriff's Office facility, authorized undercover operations, wiretaps or eavesdropping (concealed listening devices).

421.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office may provide members with access to portable recorders, either audio or video or both, for use during the performance of their duties. The use of recorders is intended to enhance the mission of the Office by accurately capturing contacts between members of the Office and the public.

421.3 DEFINITIONS

Activate – Any process that causes the BWC system being used to transmit or store video or audio data in an active mode.

Body-worn Camera recording system – System that captures audio and video signals, that is capable of being worn on an officer's person, and that includes at a minimum, a camera, microphone, and recorder.

Recorded Media – Audio/Video signals recorded or digitally stored on a storage device or portable media.

421.4 COORDINATOR

The Sheriff or the authorized designee should appoint a coordinator responsible for (RCW 10.109.010):

- (a) Establishing procedures for the security, storage and maintenance of data and recordings.
- (b) Establishing procedures for transferring, downloading, tagging or marking events.
- (c) Establishing procedures for members communicating to non-English speakers, those with limited English proficiency or those who are deaf or hard of hearing that a portable recorder is being used.
- (d) Establishing procedures for accessing data and recordings.
- (e) Establishing procedures for logging or auditing access.

Body Worn Cameras/Audio/Video Recorders

421.5 MEMBER PRIVACY EXPECTATION

All recordings made by members on any office-issued device at any time, and any recording made while acting in an official capacity of the office, regardless of ownership of the device it was made on, shall remain the property of the Office. Members shall have no expectation of privacy or ownership interest in the content of these recordings.

421.6 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to going into service, each uniformed member will be responsible for making sure that he/she is equipped with a portable recorder issued by the Office, and that the recorder is in good working order. If the recorder is not in working order or the member becomes aware of a malfunction at any time, the member shall promptly report the failure to his/her supervisor and obtain a functioning device as soon as reasonably practicable. Uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

Any member assigned to a non-uniformed position may carry an approved portable recorder at any time the member believes that such a device may be useful. Unless conducting a lawful recording in an authorized undercover capacity, non-uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner when in use or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

Members should document the existence of a recording in any report or other official record of the contact, including any instance where the recorder malfunctioned or the member deactivated the recording. Members should include the reason for deactivation (RCW 10.109.010).

421.7 ACTIVATION OF THE PORTABLE RECORDER/BODY WORN CAMERA

This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which the portable recorder should be used, although there are many situations where its use is appropriate. Members should activate the recorder any time the member believes it would be appropriate or valuable to record an incident when practicable.

The portable recorder should be activated in any of the following situations:

- (a) All enforcement and investigative contacts including stops and field interview (FI) situations
- (b) Traffic stops including, but not limited to, traffic violations, stranded motorist assistance and all crime interdiction stops
- (c) Self-initiated activity in which a member would normally notify Dispatch
- (d) Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would not otherwise require recording

Members should remain sensitive to the dignity of all individuals being recorded and exercise sound discretion to respect privacy by discontinuing recording whenever it reasonably appears to the member that such privacy may outweigh any legitimate law enforcement interest in recording.

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Requests by members of the public to stop recording should be considered using this same criterion. Recording should resume when privacy is no longer at issue unless the circumstances no longer fit the criteria for recording.

When practicable an advisement will be made announcing to everyone present that the conversation is going to be recorded and ensuring the announcement is recorded except pursuant to a warrant, or when the communication is of an emergency nature or relates to communications by a hostage holder or barricaded suspect ([RCW 9.73.030](#)).

At no time is a member expected to jeopardize his/her safety in order to activate a portable recorder or change the recording media. However, the recorder should be activated in situations described above as soon as reasonably practicable.

421.7.1 CESSATION OF RECORDING

Once activated, the portable recorder should remain on continuously until the member reasonably believes that his/her direct participation in the incident is complete or the situation no longer fits the criteria for activation. Recording may be stopped during significant periods of inactivity such as report writing or other breaks from direct participation in the incident.

Activation not required

Activation of the BWC system is not required when exchanging information with other Deputies or law enforcement officials **or** during breaks, lunch periods, completing reports or written documents, or when not in service or actively on duty.

When in a law enforcement facility the BWC shall not be activated. This will prevent inadvertent recording of operational or personal conversations. The exception is when the Deputy is engaged in law enforcement activity and interacting in person with a suspect or member of the public. The BWC will be reactivated when resuming the aforementioned calls for service under section 422.7.

421.7.2 SURREPTITIOUS USE OF THE AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDER

Washington law prohibits any individual from surreptitiously recording any conversation, except as provided in RCW 9.73.040, [RCW 9.73.090](#) and RCW 9.73.210.

Members shall not surreptitiously record another office member without a court order unless lawfully authorized by the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

421.7.3 EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

Many portable recorders, including body-worn cameras and audio/video transmitters, emit radio waves that could trigger an explosive device. Therefore, these devices should not be used where an explosive device may be present.

421.8 PROHIBITED USE OF PORTABLE RECORDERS

Members are prohibited from using office-issued portable recorders and recording media for personal use and are prohibited from making personal copies of recordings created while on-duty or while acting in their official capacity.

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Members are also prohibited from retaining recordings of activities or information obtained while on-duty, whether the recording was created with a office-issued or personally owned recorder. Members shall not duplicate or distribute such recordings, except for authorized legitimate office business purposes. All such recordings shall be retained at the Office.

Members are prohibited from using personally owned recording devices while on-duty without the express consent of the Shift Sergeant. Any member who uses a personally owned recorder for office-related activities shall comply with the provisions of this policy, including retention and release requirements, and should notify the on-duty supervisor of such use as soon as reasonably practicable.

Recordings shall not be used by any member for the purpose of embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

421.9 IDENTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION OF RECORDINGS

To assist with identifying and preserving data and recordings, members should download, tag or mark these in accordance with procedure and document the existence of the recording in any related case report.

A member should transfer, tag or mark recordings when the member reasonably believes:

- (a) The recording contains evidence relevant to potential criminal, civil or administrative matters.
- (b) A complainant, victim or witness has requested non-disclosure.
- (c) A complainant, victim or witness has not requested non-disclosure but the disclosure of the recording may endanger the person.
- (d) Disclosure may be an unreasonable violation of someone's privacy.
- (e) Medical or mental health information is contained.
- (f) Disclosure may compromise an undercover deputy or confidential informant.

Any time a member reasonably believes a recorded contact may be beneficial in a non-criminal matter (e.g., a hostile contact), the member should promptly notify a supervisor of the existence of the recording.

421.10 RETENTION OF RECORDINGS

All recordings shall be retained for a period consistent with the requirements of the organization's records retention schedule but in no event for a period less than 180 days.

421.10.1 RELEASE OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS

Requests for the release of audio/video recordings shall be processed in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

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421.11 REVIEW OF RECORDED MEDIA FILES

All recording media, recorded images and audio recordings are the property of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. Dissemination outside of our office is strictly prohibited, except to the extent permitted or required by law. All requests for recording to the public must be reviewed by a Sergeant and/or Undersheriff, who handle public records requests. Each Deputy will be able to review their recordings only by specific log-in or preview on the issued device. The Sheriff or his designee will be assigned and have access to the entire video storage system for retrieval, redaction, and review as listed in this policy

When preparing written reports, members should review their recordings as a resource (see the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy for guidance in those cases). However, members shall not retain personal copies of recordings. Members should not use the fact that a recording was made as a reason to write a less detailed report.

Supervisors are authorized to review relevant recordings any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing the member's performance.

Recorded files may also be reviewed:

- (a) Upon approval by a supervisor, by any member of the Office who is participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative investigation or criminal investigation.
- (b) Pursuant to lawful process or by court personnel who are otherwise authorized to review evidence in a related case.
- (c) By media personnel with permission of the Sheriff or the authorized designee.
- (d) In compliance with a public records request, if permitted, and in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

All recordings should be reviewed by the Custodian of Records prior to public release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy). Recordings that unreasonably violate a person's privacy or sense of dignity should not be publicly released unless disclosure is required by law or order of the court.

421.12 INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

Body Worn Camera recordings shall not be reviewed by the Sheriff's Office solely for the purposes of initiating internal investigations against its employees. If a BWC recording is reviewed by the Office in response to a complaint and/or allegation of misconduct by an employee, the employee and guild will be provided any and all material pertinent to the complaint as required and set by the collective bargaining agreement protocol and timelines. For representation of grievances and upon request by the Guild representative, a copy of the recording may be provided subject to a protective order.

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421.13 TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure that those members issued a portable recorder receive initial training upon issue and periodic training thereafter (RCW 10.109.010).

Public Recording of Law Enforcement Activity

422.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for handling situations in which members of the public photograph or audio/video record law enforcement actions and other public activities that involve members of this office. In addition, this policy provides guidelines for situations where the recordings may be evidence.

422.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes the right of persons to lawfully record members of this office who are performing their official duties. Members of this office will not prohibit or intentionally interfere with such lawful recordings. Any recordings that are deemed to be evidence of a crime or relevant to an investigation will only be collected or seized lawfully.

Deputies should exercise restraint and should not resort to highly discretionary arrests for offenses such as interference, failure to comply or disorderly conduct as a means of preventing someone from exercising the right to record members performing their official duties.

422.3 RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Members of the public who wish to record law enforcement activities are limited only in certain aspects.

- (a) Recordings may be made from any public place or any private property where the individual has the legal right to be present.
- (b) Beyond the act of photographing or recording, individuals may not interfere with the law enforcement activity. Examples of interference include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Tampering with a witness or suspect.
 - 2. Inciting others to violate the law.
 - 3. Being so close to the activity as to present a clear safety hazard to the deputies.
 - 4. Being so close to the activity as to interfere with a deputy's effective communication with a suspect or witness.
- (c) The individual may not present an undue safety risk to the deputies, him/herself or others.

422.4 OFFICER/DEPUTY RESPONSE

Deputies should promptly request that a supervisor respond to the scene whenever it appears that anyone recording activities may be interfering with an investigation or it is believed that the recording may be evidence. If practicable, deputies should wait for the supervisor to arrive before taking enforcement action or seizing any cameras or recording media.

Whenever practicable, deputies or supervisors should give clear and concise warnings to individuals who are conducting themselves in a manner that would cause their recording or

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behavior to be unlawful. Accompanying the warnings should be clear directions on what an individual can do to be compliant; directions should be specific enough to allow compliance. For example, rather than directing an individual to clear the area, a deputy could advise the person that he/she may continue observing and recording from the sidewalk across the street.

If an arrest or other significant enforcement activity is taken as the result of a recording that interferes with law enforcement activity, deputies shall document in a report the nature and extent of the interference or other unlawful behavior and the warnings that were issued.

422.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to the scene when requested or any time the circumstances indicate a likelihood of interference or other unlawful behavior.

The supervisor should review the situation with the deputy and:

- (a) Request any additional assistance as needed to ensure a safe environment.
- (b) Take a lead role in communicating with individuals who are observing or recording regarding any appropriate limitations on their location or behavior. When practical, the encounter should be recorded.
- (c) When practicable, allow adequate time for individuals to respond to requests for a change of location or behavior.
- (d) Ensure that any enforcement, seizure or other actions are consistent with this policy and constitutional and state law.
- (e) Explain alternatives for individuals who wish to express concern about the conduct of Office members, such as how and where to file a complaint.

422.6 SEIZING RECORDINGS AS EVIDENCE

Deputies should not seize recording devices or media unless (42 USC § 2000aa):

- (a) There is probable cause to believe the person recording has committed or is committing a crime to which the recording relates, and the recording is reasonably necessary for prosecution of the person.
 - 1. Absent exigency or consent, a warrant should be sought before seizing or viewing such recordings. Reasonable steps may be taken to prevent erasure of the recording.
- (b) There is reason to believe that the immediate seizure of such recordings is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death of any person.
- (c) The person consents.
 - 1. To ensure that the consent is voluntary, the request should not be made in a threatening or coercive manner.
 - 2. If the original recording is provided, a copy of the recording should be provided to the recording party, if practicable. The recording party should be permitted to be present while the copy is being made, if feasible. Another way to obtain

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the evidence is to transmit a copy of the recording from a device to a office-owned device.

Recording devices and media that are seized will be submitted within the guidelines of the Property and Evidence Policy **802**.

Medical Cannabis

423.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of this office with guidelines for handling and distinguishing between claims of medical cannabis use under Washington's Medical Use of Cannabis Act and criminal controlled substance violations ([RCW 69.51A.005](#) et seq.).

423.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include ([RCW 69.51A.010](#)):

Authorization - Documentation that is signed and dated by a qualifying patient's health care professional, authorizing use of medical cannabis.

Designated provider - A person who:

- Is 21 years of age or older and is the parent or guardian of a qualifying patient who is 17 years of age or younger and holds a recognition card.
- Has been designated in writing by a qualifying patient to serve as the designated provider for that patient.
- Has an authorization from the qualifying patient's health care professional.
- Has been entered into the medical cannabis authorization database as being the designated provider to a qualifying patient and has been provided a recognition card.

An individual can act as a designated provider to no more than one patient at a time and is prohibited from consuming cannabis obtained for the use of the qualifying patient and may only provide cannabis to the patient designated to the provider.

Medical use of cannabis - The manufacture, production, possession, transportation, delivery, ingestion, application, or administration of cannabis for the exclusive benefit of a qualifying patient in the treatment of the patient's terminal or debilitating medical condition.

Qualifying patient - Any person who meets all of the following criteria:

- Has been diagnosed by the person's health care professional as having a terminal or a debilitating medical condition.
- Is a resident of the state of Washington at the time of such diagnosis.
- Has been advised by the person's health care professional about the risks and benefits of the medical use of cannabis.
- Has been advised by the health care professional that the person may benefit from the medical use of cannabis or has been entered into the medical cannabis authorization database and has been provided a recognition card.
- Has an authorization from the person's health care professional.
- Is not under supervision for a crime that does not allow for the use of medical cannabis.

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Recognition Card - A card issued to qualifying patients and designated providers by a cannabis retailer with a medical cannabis endorsement that has entered them into the medical cannabis authorization database.

423.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to prioritize resources to avoid making arrests related to cannabis that the arresting deputy reasonably believes would not be prosecuted by state or federal authorities.

Washington medical cannabis laws are intended to provide protection from prosecution for those who use, possess, deliver, or produce cannabis to mitigate the symptoms of certain debilitating or terminal medical conditions. However, Washington medical cannabis laws do not affect federal laws and there is no medical exception under federal law for the possession or distribution of cannabis.

Deputies should exercise discretion to ensure laws are appropriately enforced without unreasonably burdening both the individuals protected under Washington law and the resources of the Office.

423.3 INVESTIGATION

Investigations involving the possession, delivery, or production of cannabis generally fall into one of several categories:

- (a) No medicinal claim is made.
- (b) A medicinal claim is made by a qualifying patient or designated provider who is in possession of amounts within the limits designated by [RCW 69.51A.040](#).
- (c) A medicinal claim is made by a qualifying patient or designated provider who is in possession of amounts exceeding the limits designated by [RCW 69.51A.040](#) or who presented no authorization when initially contacted.

423.3.1 INVESTIGATIONS WITH NO MEDICINAL CLAIM

In any investigation involving the possession, delivery, or production of cannabis where there is no claim that the cannabis is for medicinal purposes, the deputy should proceed with reasonable enforcement action. A medicinal defense may be raised at any time, so deputies should document any statements and observations that may be relevant to whether the cannabis is possessed or produced for medicinal purposes.

423.3.2 MEDICAL CLAIMS BY QUALIFYING PATIENTS OR DESIGNATED PROVIDERS

A qualifying patient or designated provider who was entered into the medical cannabis authorization database and who possesses a valid recognition card should not be arrested or cited if the patient or provider possesses no more than six plants in the patient's or provider's residence with up to 8 ounces of useable cannabis from these plants and any of the following ([RCW 69.51A.040](#) ; [RCW 69.51A.043](#)):

- (a) 48 ounces of cannabis-infused product in solid form

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- (b) 3 ounces of useable cannabis
- (c) 216 ounces of cannabis-infused product in liquid form
- (d) 21 grams of cannabis concentrates

A qualifying patient may be allowed to possess up to 15 plants with up to 16 ounces of useable cannabis in the patient's residence for the personal medical use of the patient with appropriate health care professional authorization ([RCW 69.51A.210](#)).

Qualifying patients and designated providers may only purchase cannabis at a retail outlet at the same quantities as non-patients ([RCW 69.50.360](#)) if they do not have the appropriate authorization ([RCW 69.51A.210](#)). Qualifying patients and designated providers may purchase immature plants or clones as defined in [RCW 69.50.101](#) and cannabis seeds from a licensed cannabis producer ([RCW 69.51A.310](#)).

If a person is both a qualifying patient and a designated provider for another, the person may possess no more than double the amounts described above ([RCW 69.51A.040](#) (1)).

Deputies may take enforcement action against a designated provider even when the above thresholds are not exceeded if there is evidence that the provider has converted the cannabis for the provider's personal use or benefit or has provided for more than one patient within a 15-day period ([RCW 69.51A.040](#)).

Deputies may take enforcement action against a qualifying patient even when the above thresholds are not exceeded if there is evidence that the patient possesses or uses the cannabis for the patient's personal, non-medical use or benefit (RCW 69.51A.040).

423.3.3 EXCESS AMOUNTS OR NO AUTHORIZATION

A qualifying patient or designated provider may raise an affirmative defense to charges that the amount of cannabis in the patient's or provider's possession exceeds the amount legally allowed by RCW 69.51A.040 or that the patient or provider presented no authorization when initially contacted by law enforcement ([RCW 69.51A.045](#)).

Deputies should conduct a thorough investigation in such cases, but in general, should not arrest a subject for possession, delivery, or production of cannabis if an excess amount appears reasonable based upon the above policy considerations. Similarly, if a deputy can verify that authorization exists, even though a recognition card was not presented or obtained by a qualified patient or designated provider, an arrest generally should not be made ([RCW 69.51A.043](#)).

All facts should be thoroughly documented and if evidence is not seized, it shall be photographed and detailed in the report.

423.3.4 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Prior to making a physical arrest or confiscating cannabis plants, usable cannabis, or product, deputies should consider the following:

- (a) Whenever the initial investigation reveals an amount greater than specified by law, deputies should, in anticipation of an affirmative defense, consider and document:

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1. The medical condition itself.
 2. The quality of the cannabis (chemical content).
 3. The method of ingestion (e.g., smoking, eating, nebulizer).
 4. The timing of the possession in relation to a harvest (patient may be storing cannabis).
 5. Whether the cannabis is being cultivated indoors or outdoors, and the climate.
- (b) Before proceeding with enforcement related to collective gardens, cooperatives, or commercial producers, deputies should consider conferring with appropriate legal counsel and the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board for license-related issues (WAC 314-55-410).
- (c) Medical use and possession of cannabis authorized under the Washington medical cannabis statute does not support the forfeiture of property as set forth in the Asset Forfeiture Policy ([RCW 69.51A.050](#)).
- (d) Laws and regulations do provide for the cultivation of industrial hemp. The Washington State Department of Agriculture should be contacted should questions arise regarding possible industrial hemp activity ([RCW 15.140.030](#)).
- (e) A medical endorsement can be added to a cannabis retail license to allow a retailer to sell cannabis for medical use to qualifying patients and designated providers. Transaction limits apply (WAC 314-55-080; WAC 314-55-095).
- (f) The Washington State Department of Health maintains a Medical Cannabis Authorization Database and regulates cannabis retail outlets with medical cannabis endorsements. This database may be accessed by authorized law enforcement officials for specific criminal investigations (WAC 246-71-010 et seq.).

423.4 EXCEPTIONS

This policy does not apply to the following offenses; deputies may take enforcement action if the person ([RCW 69.51A.060](#)):

- (a) Engages in the medical use of cannabis in a way that endangers the health or well-being of any person through the use of a motorized vehicle on a street, road, or highway, including violations of [RCW 46.61.502](#) or [RCW 46.61.504](#) , or equivalent local ordinances.
- (b) Uses or displays medical cannabis in a manner or place open to the view of the public.
- (c) Produces fraudulent documentation.

423.5 FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Deputies may exchange information regarding a cannabis investigation with federal law enforcement authorities when information is requested by federal law enforcement authorities or whenever the deputy reasonably believes federal law enforcement authorities would request the information if the authorities were aware of the information.

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423.6 EVIDENCE ROOM SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Evidence Room Supervisor shall ensure that cannabis, drug paraphernalia, or other related property seized from a person engaged or assisting in the use of medical cannabis is not destroyed.

Upon a determination by the prosecuting attorney that the person from whom cannabis, drug paraphernalia, or related property was seized is entitled to possession under the law, the Evidence Room Supervisor should return to that person any usable cannabis, plants, drug paraphernalia, or other seized property. That determination is the result of a decision not to prosecute, by the dismissal of charges or an acquittal.

The Evidence Room Supervisor may destroy cannabis that was alleged to be for medical purposes upon receipt of a court order.

The Evidence Room Supervisor may release cannabis to federal law enforcement authorities upon presentation of a valid court order or by a written order of the Detective Unit Supervisor.

Foot Pursuits

424.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to assist deputies in making the decision to initiate or continue the pursuit of suspects on foot.

424.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that deputies, when deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, continuously balance the objective of apprehending the suspect with the risk and potential for injury to office members, the public or the suspect.

Deputies are expected to act reasonably, based on the totality of the circumstances.

424.3 DECISION TO PURSUE

The safety of office members and the public should be the primary consideration when determining whether a foot pursuit should be initiated or continued. Deputies must be mindful that immediate apprehension of a suspect is rarely more important than the safety of the public and office members.

Deputies may be justified in initiating a foot pursuit of any individual that the deputy reasonably believes is about to engage in, is engaging in or has engaged in criminal activity. The decision to initiate or continue such a foot pursuit, however, must be continuously re-evaluated in light of the circumstances presented at the time.

Mere flight by a person who is not suspected of criminal activity alone shall not serve as justification for engaging in an extended foot pursuit without the development of reasonable suspicion regarding the individual's involvement in criminal activity or being wanted by law enforcement.

Deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit is a decision that a deputy must make quickly and under unpredictable and dynamic circumstances. It is recognized that foot pursuits may place office members and the public at significant risk. Therefore, no deputy or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a foot pursuit because of the perceived risk involved.

If circumstances permit, surveillance and containment are generally the safest tactics for apprehending fleeing persons. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, a deputy should continuously consider reasonable alternatives to a foot pursuit based upon the circumstances and resources available, such as:

- (a) Containment of the area.
- (b) Saturation of the area with law enforcement personnel, including assistance from other agencies.
- (c) A canine search.
- (d) Thermal imaging or other sensing technology.

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- (e) Air support.
- (f) Apprehension at another time when the identity of the suspect is known or there is information available that would likely allow for later apprehension, and the need to immediately apprehend the suspect does not reasonably appear to outweigh the risk of continuing the foot pursuit.

424.4 GENERAL GUIDELINES

When reasonably practicable, deputies should consider alternatives to engaging in or continuing a foot pursuit when:

- (a) Directed by a supervisor to terminate the foot pursuit; such an order shall be considered mandatory.
- (b) The deputy is acting alone.
- (c) Two or more deputies become separated, lose visual contact with one another or obstacles separate them to the degree that they cannot immediately assist each other should a confrontation take place. In such circumstances, it is generally recommended that a single deputy keep the suspect in sight from a safe distance and coordinate the containment effort.
- (d) The deputy is unsure of his/her location and direction of travel.
- (e) The deputy is pursuing multiple suspects and it is not reasonable to believe that the deputy would be able to control the suspect should a confrontation occur.
- (f) The physical condition of the deputy renders him/her incapable of controlling the suspect if apprehended.
- (g) The deputy loses radio contact with the dispatcher or with assisting or backup deputies.
- (h) The suspect enters a building, structure, confined space, isolated area or dense or difficult terrain, and there are insufficient deputies to provide backup and containment. The primary deputy should consider discontinuing the foot pursuit and coordinating containment pending the arrival of sufficient resources.
- (i) The deputy becomes aware of unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances that unreasonably increase the risk to deputies or the public.
- (j) The deputy reasonably believes that the danger to the pursuing deputies or public outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension.
- (k) The deputy loses possession of his/her firearm or other essential equipment.
- (l) The deputy or a third party is injured during the foot pursuit, requiring immediate assistance, and there are no other emergency personnel available to render assistance.
- (m) The suspect's location is no longer known.
- (n) The identity of the suspect is established or other information exists that will allow for the suspect's apprehension at a later time, and it reasonably appears that there is

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no immediate threat to office members or the public if the suspect is not immediately apprehended.

- (o) The deputy's ability to safely continue the foot pursuit is impaired by inclement weather, darkness or other environmental conditions.

424.5 RESPONSIBILITIES IN FOOT PURSUITS

424.5.1 INITIATING DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Unless relieved by another deputy or a supervisor, the initiating deputy shall be responsible for coordinating the progress of the pursuit and containment. When acting alone and when practicable, the initiating deputy should not attempt to overtake and confront the suspect but should attempt to keep the suspect in sight until sufficient deputies are present to safely apprehend the suspect.

Early communication of available information from the involved deputies is essential so that adequate resources can be coordinated and deployed to bring a foot pursuit to a safe conclusion. Deputies initiating a foot pursuit should, at a minimum, broadcast the following information as soon as it becomes practicable and available:

- (a) Location and direction of travel
- (b) Call sign identifier
- (c) Reason for the foot pursuit, such as the crime classification
- (d) Number of suspects and description, to include name if known
- (e) Whether the suspect is known or believed to be armed with a dangerous weapon

Deputies should be mindful that radio transmissions made while running may be difficult to understand and may need to be repeated.

Absent extenuating circumstances, any deputy unable to promptly and effectively broadcast this information should terminate the foot pursuit. If the foot pursuit is discontinued for any reason, immediate efforts for containment should be established and alternatives considered based upon the circumstances and available resources.

When a foot pursuit terminates, the deputy will notify the dispatcher of his/her location and the status of the foot pursuit termination (e.g., suspect in custody, lost sight of suspect), and will direct further actions as reasonably appear necessary, to include requesting medical aid as needed for deputies, suspects or members of the public.

424.5.2 ASSISTING DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever any deputy announces that he/she is engaged in a foot pursuit, all other deputies should minimize non-essential radio traffic to permit the involved deputies maximum access to the radio frequency.

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424.5.3 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware of a foot pursuit, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to ascertain sufficient information to direct responding resources and to take command, control and coordination of the foot pursuit. The supervisor should respond to the area whenever possible; the supervisor does not, however, need to be physically present to exercise control over the foot pursuit. The supervisor shall continuously assess the situation in order to ensure the foot pursuit is conducted within established office guidelines.

The supervisor shall terminate the foot pursuit when the danger to pursuing deputies or the public appears to unreasonably outweigh the objective of immediate apprehension of the suspect.

Upon apprehension of the suspect, the supervisor shall promptly proceed to the termination point to direct the post-foot pursuit activity.

424.5.4 DISPATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification or becoming aware that a foot pursuit is in progress, the dispatcher is responsible for:

- (a) Clearing the radio channel of non-emergency traffic.
- (b) Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved deputies.
- (c) Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.
- (d) Ensuring that a field supervisor is notified of the foot pursuit.
- (e) Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (f) Notifying a supervisor as soon as practicable.
- (g) Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.

424.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The initiating deputy shall complete appropriate crime/arrest reports documenting, at a minimum:

- (a) Date and time of the foot pursuit.
- (b) Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the foot pursuit.
- (c) Course and approximate distance of the foot pursuit.
- (d) Alleged offenses.
- (e) Involved vehicles and deputies.
- (f) Whether a suspect was apprehended as well as the means and methods used.
 - 1. Any use of force shall be reported and documented in compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
- (g) Arrestee information, if applicable.
- (h) Any injuries and/or medical treatment.
- (i) Any property or equipment damage.
- (j) Name of the supervisor at the scene or who handled the incident.

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- (k) A preliminary determination that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy or that additional review and/or follow-up is warranted.

Assisting deputies taking an active role in the apprehension of the suspect shall complete supplemental reports as necessary or as directed.

In any case in which a suspect is not apprehended and there is insufficient information to support further investigation, a supervisor may authorize that the initiating deputy need not complete a formal report.

Homeless Persons

425.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that personnel understand the needs and rights of the homeless and to establish procedures to guide deputies during all contacts with the homeless, whether consensual or for enforcement purposes. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes that members of the homeless community are often in need of special protection and services. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will address these needs in balance with the overall missions of this office. Therefore, deputies will consider the following policy sections when serving the homeless community (see the Emergency Detentions Policy **409**).

425.1.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services to all members of the community while protecting the rights, dignity and private property of the homeless. Homelessness is not a crime and members of this office will not use homelessness solely as a basis for detention or law enforcement action.

425.2 FIELD CONTACTS

Deputies are encouraged to contact the homeless for purposes of rendering aid, support and for community-oriented policing purposes. Nothing in this policy is meant to dissuade a deputy from taking reasonable enforcement action when facts support a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. However, when encountering a homeless person who has committed a non-violent misdemeanor and continued freedom is not likely to result in a continuation of the offense or a breach of the peace, deputies are encouraged to consider long-term solutions to problems that may relate to the homeless, such as shelter referrals and counseling in lieu of physical arrest.

Deputies should provide homeless persons with resource and assistance information whenever it is reasonably apparent such services may be appropriate.

425.2.1 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Homeless members of the community will receive the same level and quality of service provided to other members of the community. The fact that a victim or witness is homeless can, however, require special considerations for a successful investigation and prosecution. Deputies should consider the following when handling investigations involving homeless victims, witnesses or suspects:

- (a) Document alternate contact information. This may include obtaining addresses and phone numbers of relatives and friends.
- (b) Document places the homeless person may frequent.
- (c) Provide homeless victims with victim/witness resources when appropriate.
- (d) Obtain statements from all available witnesses in the event a homeless victim is unavailable for a court appearance.

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- (e) Consider whether the person may be a vulnerable adult and if so, proceed in accordance with the Adult Abuse Policy.
- (f) Arrange for transportation for investigation-related matters, such as medical exams and court appearances.
- (g) Consider whether a crime should be reported and submitted for prosecution even when a homeless victim indicates he/she does not desire prosecution.
- (h) Document any facts indicating that the offense was intentionally committed because the victim was homeless or perceived to be homeless ([RCW 9.94A.535](#)).

425.3 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The personal property of homeless persons must not be treated differently than the property of other members of the public. Deputies should use reasonable care when handling, collecting and retaining the personal property of homeless persons and should not destroy or discard the personal property of a homeless person.

When a homeless person is arrested, or otherwise removed from a public place, deputies should make reasonable accommodations to permit the person to lawfully secure his/her personal property. Otherwise, the personal property should be collected for safekeeping. If the arrestee has more personal property than can reasonably be collected and transported by the deputy, a supervisor should be consulted. The property should be photographed and measures should be taken to remove or secure the property. It will be the supervisor's responsibility to coordinate the removal and safekeeping of the property.

Deputies should not conduct or assist in clean-up operations of belongings that reasonably appear to be the property of homeless persons without the prior authorization of a supervisor.

425.4 MENTAL ILLNESSES AND MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS

Some homeless persons may suffer from a mental illness or a mental impairment. Deputies shall not detain a homeless person under a mental illness commitment unless facts and circumstances warrant such a detention.

When a mental illness detention is not warranted, the contacting deputy should provide the homeless person with contact information for mental health assistance as appropriate. In these circumstances, deputies may provide transportation to a mental health specialist if requested by the person and approved by a supervisor.

425.5 ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

Sometimes homeless encampments can impact the ecology and natural resources of the community and may involve criminal offenses beyond mere littering. Deputies are encouraged to notify other appropriate agencies or departments when a significant impact to the environment has or is likely to occur. Significant impacts to the environment may warrant a crime report, investigation, supporting photographs and supervisor notification.

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First Amendment Assemblies

426.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for responding to public assemblies or demonstrations.

426.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office respects the rights of people to peaceably assemble. It is the policy of this office not to unreasonably interfere with, harass, intimidate or discriminate against persons engaged in the lawful exercise of their rights, while also preserving the peace, protecting life and preventing the destruction of property.

426.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals or groups present on the public way, such as public facilities, streets or walkways, generally have the right to assemble, rally, demonstrate, protest or otherwise express their views and opinions through varying forms of communication, including the distribution of printed matter. These rights may be limited by laws or ordinances regulating such matters as the obstruction of individual or vehicle access or egress, trespass, noise, picketing, distribution of handbills and leafleting, and loitering. However, deputies shall not take action or fail to take action based on the opinions being expressed.

Participant behavior during a demonstration or other public assembly can vary. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Lawful, constitutionally protected actions and speech.
- Civil disobedience (typically involving minor criminal acts).
- Rioting.

All of these behaviors may be present during the same event. Therefore, it is imperative that law enforcement actions are measured and appropriate for the behaviors deputies may encounter. This is particularly critical if force is being used. Adaptable strategies and tactics are essential. The purpose of a law enforcement presence at the scene of public assemblies and demonstrations should be to preserve the peace, to protect life and prevent the destruction of property.

Deputies should not:

- (a) Engage in assembly or demonstration-related discussion with participants.
- (b) Harass, confront or intimidate participants.
- (c) Seize the cameras, cell phones or materials of participants or observers unless a deputy is placing a person under lawful arrest.

Supervisors should continually observe office members under their commands to ensure that members' interaction with participants and their response to crowd dynamics is appropriate.

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426.3.1 PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Photographs and video recording, when appropriate, can serve a number of purposes, including support of criminal prosecutions by documenting criminal acts; assistance in evaluating office performance; serving as training material; recording the use of dispersal orders; and facilitating a response to allegations of improper law enforcement conduct.

Photographs and videos will not be used or retained for the sole purpose of collecting or maintaining information about the political, religious or social views of associations, or the activities of any individual, group, association, organization, corporation, business or partnership, unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities and there is reasonable suspicion that the subject of the information is involved in criminal conduct.

426.4 UNPLANNED EVENTS

When responding to an unplanned or spontaneous public gathering, the first responding deputy should conduct an assessment of conditions, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Location
- Number of participants
- Apparent purpose of the event
- Leadership (whether it is apparent and/or whether it is effective)
- Any initial indicators of unlawful or disruptive activity
- Indicators that lawful use of public facilities, streets or walkways will be impacted
- Ability and/or need to continue monitoring the incident

Initial assessment information should be promptly communicated to Dispatch, and the assignment of a supervisor should be requested. Additional resources should be requested as appropriate. The responding supervisor shall assume command of the incident until command is expressly assumed by another, and the assumption of command is communicated to the involved members. A clearly defined command structure that is consistent with the Incident Command System (ICS) should be established as resources are deployed.

426.5 PLANNED EVENT PREPARATION

For planned events, comprehensive, incident-specific operational plans should be developed. The ICS should be considered for such events.

426.5.1 INFORMATION GATHERING AND ASSESSMENT

In order to properly assess the potential impact of a public assembly or demonstration on public safety and order, relevant information should be collected and vetted. This may include:

- Information obtained from outreach to group organizers or leaders.
- Information about past and potential unlawful conduct associated with the event or similar events.

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- The potential time, duration, scope, and type of planned activities.
- Any other information related to the goal of providing a balanced response to criminal activity and the protection of public safety interests.

Information should be obtained in a transparent manner, and the sources documented. Relevant information should be communicated to the appropriate parties in a timely manner.

Information will be obtained in a lawful manner and will not be based solely on the purpose or content of the assembly or demonstration, or actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability of the participants (or any other characteristic that is unrelated to criminal conduct or the identification of a criminal subject).

426.5.2 OPERATIONAL PLANS

An operational planning team with responsibility for event planning and management should be established. The planning team should develop an operational plan for the event.

The operational plan will minimally provide:

- (a) Command assignments, chain of command structure, roles and responsibilities.
- (b) Staffing and resource allocation.
- (c) Management of criminal investigations.
- (d) Designation of uniform of the day and related safety equipment (e.g., helmets, shields).
- (e) Deployment of specialized resources.
- (f) Event communications and interoperability in a multijurisdictional event.
- (g) Liaison with demonstration leaders and external agencies.
- (h) Liaison with County government and legal staff.
- (i) Media relations.
- (j) Logistics: food, fuel, replacement equipment, duty hours, relief and transportation.
- (k) Traffic management plans.
- (l) First aid and emergency medical service provider availability.
- (m) Prisoner transport and detention.
- (n) Review of policies regarding public assemblies and use of force in crowd control.
- (o) Parameters for declaring an unlawful assembly.
- (p) Arrest protocol, including management of mass arrests.
- (q) Protocol for recording information flow and decisions.
- (r) Rules of engagement, including rules of conduct, protocols for field force extraction and arrests, and any authorization required for the use of force.
- (s) Protocol for handling complaints during the event.

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- (t) Parameters for the use of body-worn cameras and other portable recording devices.

426.5.3 MUTUAL AID AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES

The magnitude and anticipated duration of an event may necessitate interagency cooperation and coordination. The assigned Incident Commander should ensure that any required memorandums of understanding or other agreements are properly executed, and that any anticipated mutual aid is requested and facilitated (see the Outside Agency Assistance Policy **325**).

426.6 UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY DISPERSAL ORDERS

If a public gathering or demonstration remains peaceful and nonviolent, and there is no reasonably imminent threat to persons or property, the Incident Commander should generally authorize continued monitoring of the event.

Should the Incident Commander make a determination that public safety is presently or is about to be jeopardized, he/she or the authorized designee should attempt to verbally persuade event organizers or participants to disperse of their own accord. Warnings and advisements may be communicated through established communications links with leaders and/or participants or to the group.

When initial attempts at verbal persuasion are unsuccessful, the Incident Commander or the authorized designee should make a clear standardized announcement to the gathering that the event is an unlawful assembly, and should order the dispersal of the participants. The announcement should be communicated by whatever methods are reasonably available to ensure that the content of the message is clear and that it has been heard by the participants. The announcement should be amplified, made in different languages as appropriate, made from multiple locations in the affected area and documented by audio and video. The announcement should provide information about what law enforcement actions will take place if illegal behavior continues and should identify routes for egress. A reasonable time to disperse should be allowed following a dispersal order.

426.7 USE OF FORCE

Use of force is governed by current office policy and applicable law (see the Use of Force policy **300**, Handcuffing and Restraints policy **302**, Control Devices and Techniques policy **303**, and Conducted Energy Device policy **304**).

Individuals refusing to comply with lawful orders (e.g., nonviolent refusal to disperse) should be given a clear verbal warning and a reasonable opportunity to comply. If an individual refuses to comply with lawful orders, the Incident Commander shall evaluate the type of resistance and adopt a reasonable response in order to accomplish the law enforcement mission (such as dispersal or arrest of those acting in violation of the law). Control devices and TASER (TM) devices should be considered only when the participants' conduct reasonably appears to present the potential to harm deputies, themselves or others, or will result in substantial property loss or damage (see the Control Devices and Techniques and the Conducted Energy Device policies).

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Force or control devices, including oleoresin capsaicin (OC), should be directed toward individuals and not toward groups or crowds, unless specific individuals cannot reasonably be targeted due to extreme circumstances, such as a riotous crowd.

Any use of force by a member of this office shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report. The type of report required may depend on the nature of the incident.

426.8 ARRESTS

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office should respond to unlawful behavior in a manner that is consistent with the operational plan. If practicable, warnings or advisements should be communicated prior to arrest.

Mass arrests should be employed only when alternate tactics and strategies have been, or reasonably appear likely to be, unsuccessful. Mass arrests shall only be undertaken upon the order of the Incident Commander or the authorized designee. There must be probable cause for each arrest.

If employed, mass arrest protocols should fully integrate:

- (a) Reasonable measures to address the safety of deputies and arrestees.
- (b) Dedicated arrest, booking and report writing teams.
- (c) Timely access to medical care.
- (d) Timely access to legal resources.
- (e) Timely processing of arrestees.
- (f) Full accountability for arrestees and evidence.
- (g) Coordination and cooperation with the prosecuting authority, jail and courts (see the Citation Releases Policy).

426.9 MEDIA RELATIONS

The Public Information Officer should use all available avenues of communication, including press releases, briefings, press conferences and social media to maintain open channels of communication with media representatives and the public about the status and progress of the event, taking all opportunities to reassure the public about the professional management of the event (see the Media Relations Policy **323**).

426.10 DEMOBILIZATION

When appropriate, the Incident Commander or the authorized designee should implement a phased and orderly withdrawal of law enforcement resources. All relieved personnel should promptly complete any required reports, including use of force reports, and account for all issued equipment and vehicles to their supervisors prior to returning to normal operational duties.

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426.11 POST EVENT

The Incident Commander should designate a member to assemble full documentation of the event, to include the following:

- (a) Operational plan
- (b) Any incident logs
- (c) Any assignment logs
- (d) Vehicle, fuel, equipment and supply records
- (e) Incident, arrest, use of force, injury and property damage reports
- (f) Photographs, audio/video recordings, Dispatch records/tapes
- (g) Media accounts (print and broadcast media)

426.11.1 AFTER-ACTION REPORTING

The Incident Commander should work with County legal counsel, as appropriate, to prepare a comprehensive after-action report of the event, explaining all incidents where force was used including the following:

- (a) Date, time and description of the event
- (b) Actions taken and outcomes (e.g., injuries, property damage, arrests)
- (c) Problems identified
- (d) Significant events
- (e) Recommendations for improvement; opportunities for training should be documented in a generic manner, without identifying individuals or specific incidents, facts or circumstances.

426.12 TRAINING

Office members should receive periodic training regarding this policy, as well as the dynamics of crowd control and incident management. The Office should, when practicable, train with its external and mutual aid partners.

Civil Disputes

427.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office with guidance for addressing conflicts between persons when no criminal investigation or enforcement action is warranted (e.g., civil matters), with the goal of minimizing any potential for violence or criminal acts.

The Domestic Violence Policy will address specific legal mandates related to domestic violence court orders. References in this policy to "court orders" apply to any order of a court that does not require arrest or enforcement by the terms of the order or by Washington law.

427.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes that a law enforcement presence at a civil dispute can play an important role in the peace and safety of the community. Subject to available resources, members of this office will assist at the scene of civil disputes with the primary goal of safeguarding persons and property, preventing criminal activity and maintaining the peace. When handling civil disputes, members will remain impartial, maintain a calm presence, give consideration to all sides and refrain from giving legal or inappropriate advice.

427.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

When appropriate, members handling a civil dispute should encourage the involved parties to seek the assistance of resolution services or take the matter to the civil courts. Members must not become personally involved in disputes and shall at all times remain impartial.

While not intended to be an exhaustive list, members should give considerations to the following when handling civil disputes:

- (a) Civil disputes tend to be confrontational and members should be alert that they can escalate to violence very quickly. De-escalation techniques should be used when appropriate.
- (b) Members should not dismiss alleged or observed criminal violations as a civil matter and should initiate the appropriate investigation and report when criminal activity is apparent.
- (c) Members shall not provide legal advice, however, when appropriate, members should inform the parties when they are at risk of violating criminal laws.
- (d) Members are reminded that they shall not enter a residence or other non-public location without legal authority.
- (e) Members should not take an unreasonable amount of time assisting in these matters and generally should contact a supervisor if it appears that peacekeeping efforts longer than 30 minutes are warranted.

Civil Disputes

427.4 COURT ORDERS

Disputes involving court orders can be complex. Where no mandate exists for a deputy to make an arrest for a violation of a court order, the matter should be addressed by documenting any apparent court order violation in a report. If there appears to be a more immediate need for enforcement action, the investigating deputy should consult a supervisor prior to making any arrest.

If a person appears to be violating the terms of a court order but is disputing the validity of the order or its applicability, the investigating deputy should document the following:

- (a) The person's knowledge of the court order or whether proof of service exists.
- (b) Any specific reason or rationale the involved person offers for not complying with the terms of the order.

A copy of the court order should be attached to the report when available. The report should be forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. The report should also be forwarded to the court issuing the order with a notice that the report was also forwarded to the prosecutor for review.

427.4.1 STANDBY REQUESTS

Deputies responding to a call for standby assistance to retrieve property should meet the person requesting assistance at a neutral location to discuss the process. The person should be advised that items that are disputed will not be allowed to be removed. The member may advise the person to seek private legal advice as to the distribution of disputed property.

Deputies should accompany the person to the location of the property. Deputies should ask if the other party will allow removal of the property or whether the other party would remove the property.

If the other party is uncooperative, the person requesting standby assistance should be instructed to seek private legal advice and obtain a court order to obtain the items ([RCW 26.50.080](#)). Deputies should not order the other party to allow entry or the removal of any items. If there is a restraining or similar order against the person requesting standby assistance, that person should be asked to leave the scene or he/she may be subject to arrest for violation of the order.

If the other party is not present at the location, the member will not allow entry into the location or the removal of property from the location.

427.5 VEHICLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Deputies may be faced with disputes regarding possession or ownership of vehicles or other personal property. Deputies may review documents provided by parties or available databases (e.g., vehicle registration), but should be aware that legal possession of vehicles or personal property can be complex. Generally, deputies should not take any enforcement action unless a crime is apparent. The people and the vehicle or personal property involved should be identified and the incident documented.

427.6 REAL PROPERTY

Disputes over possession or occupancy of real property (e.g., land, homes, apartments) should generally be handled through a person seeking a court order.

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427.6.1 REQUEST TO REMOVE TRESPASSER DECLARATION

Deputies possessing a lawful declaration signed under penalty of perjury and in the form required by law, may take enforcement action to remove a person from a residence when ([RCW 9A.52.105](#)):

- The person has been allowed a reasonable opportunity to secure and present evidence that the person is lawfully on the premises
- The deputy reasonably believe he/she has probable cause to believe the person is committing criminal trespass under [RCW 9A.52.070](#).

A deputy should give the trespasser a reasonable opportunity to vacate the premises before taking enforcement action.

Crisis Intervention Incidents

428.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for interacting with those who may be experiencing a mental health or emotional crisis. Interaction with such individuals has the potential for miscommunication and violence. It often requires a deputy to make difficult judgments about a person's mental state and intent in order to effectively and legally interact with the individual.

428.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Accute Chaotic Event - A medical disorder generally characterized by observable behaviors including extreme mental and physiological excitement, intense agitation, hyperthermia often resulting in nudity, hostility, exceptional strength, endurance without apparent fatigue, and unusual calmness after restraint accompanied by a risk of sudden death.

Crisis - A crisis is a personal experience of intensified psychological, emotional, and/or mental distress that can be precipitated by situational stress, trauma and/or an acute episode of pre-existing mental illness.

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) - A course of specialized instruction covering topics including legal aspects of mental health, commitments, liability issues; mental disorders; indicators of mental illness; understanding mental illness; documentation; the inter-personal relations necessary to effectively work with the mentally ill, their families, and the mental health system; and intervention strategies for dealing with both low -risk and high- risk situations.

Developmental Disability - A disability attributed to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another neurological condition of an individual that resembles an intellectual disability.

Disengage or Disengagement - Means to terminate communications and retreat to a reasonably safe location while remaining aware of the developing situation. A reasonably safe location may include leaving the scene. Remaining aware of the developing situation may include updates given by the Skamania County Communications Center.

Engage or Engagement - Means to make communications contact with a suicidal person or person in crisis.

Intervention - Methods used to attempt to deescalate or defuse a situation and assist a person who is in crisis or experiencing a mental health emergency.

Involuntary Treatment Act (I.T.A.) - [R.C.W. 71.05.150](#) / [R.C.W. 71.05.153](#) allows law enforcement officers to take a person into custody when there is reasonable cause to believe that due to a mental illness or developmental disability, the person represents an imminent danger to self, others, or is gravely disabled.

Crisis Intervention Incidents

Mental Health Emergency - A mental health crisis that involves a potential for and/or an imminent life-threatening situation that requires an immediate response to ensure the safety of the person in crisis and those around the subject.

Mental Illness - Any organic, mental, or emotional impairment that has a substantial adverse affect on an individual's cognitive or volitional functions. A subject may suffer from mental illness if he or she displays an inability to think rationally, exercise adequate control over behavior or impulses and/or take reasonable care for his or her welfare with regard to basic necessities of life.

Person in crisis - A person whose level of distress or mental health symptoms have exceeded the person's internal ability to manage his/her behavior or emotions. A crisis can be precipitated by any number of things, including an increase in the symptoms of mental illness despite treatment compliance; non-compliance with treatment, including a failure to take prescribed medications appropriately; or any other circumstance or event that causes the person to engage in erratic, disruptive or dangerous behavior that may be accompanied by impaired judgment.

Priority Of Life Model - When dealing with a suicidal call, the concept of Priority of Life Model is helpful to guide Patrol Officers and Sergeants in the response. The protection of life is placed in a hierarchy that puts victims and innocents first, and the suicidal person last.

1. Hostages / Victims
2. Innocent by-standers
3. Law Enforcement / First Responders
4. Suicidal Subject

428.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing a consistently high level of service to all members of the community and recognizes that persons in crisis may benefit from intervention. The Office will collaborate, where feasible, with mental health professionals to develop an overall intervention strategy to guide its members' interactions with those experiencing a mental health crisis. This is to ensure equitable and safe treatment of all involved.

428.3 SIGNS

Members should be alert to any of the following possible signs of mental health issues or crises:

- (a) A known history of mental illness
- (b) Threats of or attempted suicide
- (c) Loss of memory
- (d) Incoherence, disorientation or slow response
- (e) Delusions, hallucinations, perceptions unrelated to reality or grandiose ideas
- (f) Depression, pronounced feelings of hopelessness or uselessness, extreme sadness or guilt
- (g) Social withdrawal

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- (h) Manic or impulsive behavior, extreme agitation, lack of control
- (i) Lack of fear
- (j) Anxiety, aggression, rigidity, inflexibility or paranoia

Members should be aware that this list is not exhaustive. The presence or absence of any of these should not be treated as proof of the presence or absence of a mental health issue or crisis.

428.4 COORDINATION WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Sheriff should designate an appropriate Division Chief to collaborate with mental health professionals to develop an education and response protocol. It should include a list of community resources, to guide office interaction with those who may be suffering from mental illness or who appear to be in a mental health crisis.

428.5 FIRST RESPONDERS

Safety is a priority for first responders. It is important to recognize that individuals under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both may exhibit symptoms that are similar to those of a person in a mental health crisis. These individuals may still present a serious threat to deputies; such a threat should be addressed with reasonable tactics. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit a deputy's authority to use reasonable force when interacting with a person in crisis.

Deputies are reminded that mental health issues, mental health crises and unusual behavior alone are not criminal offenses. Individuals may benefit from treatment as opposed to incarceration.

A deputy responding to a call involving a person in crisis should:

- (a) Promptly assess the situation independent of reported information and make a preliminary determination regarding whether a mental health crisis may be a factor.
- (b) Request available backup deputies and specialized resources as deemed necessary and, if it is reasonably believed that the person is in a crisis situation, use conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques to stabilize the incident as appropriate.
- (c) If feasible, and without compromising safety, turn off flashing lights, bright lights or sirens.
- (d) Attempt to determine if weapons are present or available.
- (e) Take into account the person's mental and emotional state and potential inability to understand commands or to appreciate the consequences of his/her action or inaction, as perceived by the deputy.
- (f) Secure the scene and clear the immediate area as necessary.
- (g) Employ tactics to preserve the safety of all participants.
- (h) Determine the nature of any crime.
- (i) Request a supervisor, as warranted.
- (j) Evaluate any available information that might assist in determining cause or motivation for the person's actions or stated intentions.

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- (k) If circumstances reasonably permit, consider and employ alternatives to force.

428.6 DE-ESCALATION

Deputies should consider that taking no action or passively monitoring the situation may be the most reasonable response to a mental health crisis.

Once it is determined that a situation is a mental health crisis and immediate safety concerns have been addressed, responding members should be aware of the following considerations and should generally:

- Evaluate safety conditions.
- Introduce themselves and attempt to obtain the person's name.
- Be patient, polite, calm, courteous and avoid overreacting.
- Speak and move slowly and in a non-threatening manner.
- Moderate the level of direct eye contact.
- Remove distractions or disruptive people from the area.
- Demonstrate active listening skills (e.g., summarize the person's verbal communication).
- Provide for sufficient avenues of retreat or escape should the situation become volatile.

Responding deputies generally should not:

- Use stances or tactics that can be interpreted as aggressive.
- Allow others to interrupt or engage the person.
- Corner a person who is not believed to be armed, violent or suicidal.
- Argue, speak with a raised voice or use threats to obtain compliance.

428.7 INCIDENT ORIENTATION

When responding to an incident that may involve mental illness or a mental health crisis, the deputy should request that the dispatcher provide critical information as it becomes available. This includes:

- (a) Whether the person relies on drugs or medication, or may have failed to take his/her medication.
- (b) Whether there have been prior incidents, suicide threats/attempts, and whether there has been previous sheriff's response.
- (c) Contact information for a treating physician or mental health professional.

Additional resources and a supervisor should be requested as warranted.

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428.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to the scene of any interaction with a person in crisis. Responding supervisors should:

- (a) Attempt to secure appropriate and sufficient resources.
- (b) Closely monitor any use of force, including the use of restraints, and ensure that those subjected to the use of force are provided with timely access to medical care (see the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy).
- (c) Consider strategic disengagement. Absent an imminent threat to the public and, as circumstances dictate, this may include removing or reducing law enforcement resources or engaging in passive monitoring.
- (d) Ensure that all reports are completed and that incident documentation uses appropriate terminology and language.
- (e) Conduct an after-action tactical and operational debriefing, and prepare an after-action evaluation of the incident to be forwarded to the Division Chief.
- (f) Evaluate whether a critical incident stress management debriefing for involved members is warranted.

428.9 RESPONSE TO SUICIDAL SUBJECT CALLS

The response to the Suicidal Subject Call guidelines are narrowly focused on the suicidal call type and do not change law enforcement response to other types of mental health calls. (Threats Toward Others, Gravely Disabled, Pick-Up Order, etc.)

It is expected that Skamania County Sheriff's Office Deputies will respond and initially engage, if possible, on all suicidal calls to which they are dispatched. The decision to remain engaged or to disengage should be based on the totality of the circumstances. Clear and articulable reasons supporting decisions should be present, acted on, and recorded.

The following are specific expectations and guidelines for Skamania County Sheriff's Office personnel responding to these types of suicidal subject calls:

- Respond and initially engage, if possible, on all suicidal subject calls dispatched to patrol deputies.
- Use the Priority of Life Model to assist in making response decisions.
- Each call is different and all facts available to deputies and sergeants should be taken into account when addressing the situation. The totality of the circumstances should be considered and decisions based upon what is known.
- If there is anyone with the subject who may be or become a hostage or victim, attempt to separate the innocents from the subject.
- Attempt to determine if the subject is armed in a public place and a risk to innocent by-standers. If the subject is in a public place and is a risk to others, attempt to limit the subject's movements and consider a less-than-lethal option if safe to do so. If the subject does not appear to be a risk to others, attempt to contain the subject and

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negotiate to try to learn his/her willingness to receive help. If the subject is unwilling to receive help, consider disengagement.

- Attempt to determine if the suicidal subject is a threat to officers or first responders. Be aware of "suicide by cop." Many times, the mere presence of law enforcement escalates the situation to a use of force scenario. Avoid approaching the suicidal subject unnecessarily.
- If the subject is alone and does not appear to be a threat to others, disengagement may be considered as an option. Further attempts may be made by a CIT Deputy or crisis worker to contact the subject by phone to offer him/her services. If the subject does not answer, expresses no interest, or clearly tells the deputy, by word or action not to interfere/bother him or her, do not force a confrontation.
- De-escalation techniques should be used throughout the process in attempts to gain compliance and the subject's acceptance of help and care.

428.10 INCIDENT REPORTING

Members engaging in any oral or written communication associated with a mental health crisis should be mindful of the sensitive nature of such communications and should exercise appropriate discretion when referring to or describing persons and circumstances.

Members having contact with a person in crisis should keep related information confidential, except to the extent that revealing information is necessary to conform to office reporting procedures or other official mental health or medical proceedings.

428.10.1 DIVERSION

Individuals who are not being arrested should be processed in accordance with the Emergency Detentions Policy(409).

428.10.2 SUICIDE THREATS OR ATTEMPTS

Deputies should consider a referral to mental health services when a person has threatened or attempted suicide and the person does not qualify for emergency detention or voluntarily consent to immediate evaluation at a behavioral health facility ([RCW 71.05.457](#)).

- (a) Referrals should be made to the person by providing the name and phone number of the behavioral health agency and any available handouts.
- (b) The deputy may notify the behavioral health agency of the referral by phone or other method, in addition to preparing a written incident report.

Incident reports documenting a referral to a behavioral health agency should be sufficiently detailed regarding the nature of the incident and the person's behavior, to facilitate the behavioral health agency's prioritization and nature of their response. The deputy should promptly provide a copy of the report to the referred behavioral health agency (RCW 71.05.457).

428.11 GUIDELINES FOR ACUTE CHAOTIC EVENTS

The purpose of this section is to provide guidance and direction in the handling of individuals who may appear to be experiencing an Acute Chaotic Event (often referred to as Excited Delirium).

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Rapid control of the subject and transfer to the care of emergency medical providers should be the primary objective unless another action is necessary in order to protect deputies or others. The underlying causes of an Acute Chaotic Event are not fully understood, although its common symptoms have been documented and witnessed by law enforcement. A person exhibiting symptomatic behaviors should be suspected of being the subject of a medical emergency that could result in sudden death. The early recognition of an Acute Chaotic Event is essential in a successful outcome.

1. Assessment

- a. While deputies cannot diagnose an Acute Chaotic Event, they should be cognizant of specific signs and characteristic symptoms. These may include one or more of the following:
 - i. Constant, or near-constant physical activity.
 - ii. Unresponsiveness to police presence.
 - iii. Nakedness / inadequate clothing that may indicate self-cooling attempts.
 - iv. Elevated body temperature / hot to the touch.
 - v. Rapid breathing.
 - vi. Profuse sweating.
 - vii. Extreme aggression or violence.
 - viii. Making unintelligible, animal-like noises.
 - ix. Insensitivity to / extreme tolerance of pain.
 - x. Excessive strength (out of proportion).
 - xi. Lack of fatigue despite heavy exertion.
 - xii. Screaming and incoherent talk.
 - xiii. Paranoid or panicked demeanor.
 - xiv. Attraction to bright lights / loud sounds/glass or shiny objects.

2. Control

Physical control must be affected quickly to minimize the intensity and duration of resistance and struggle, which often are direct contributors to sudden death.

- a. When responding to a call involving a person possibly experiencing an Acute Chaotic Event, deputies should do the following:
 - i. Eliminate unnecessary emergency lights and sirens.

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- ii. Ensure that an adequate number of backup officers have been dispatched to affect rapid control of the suspect.
 - iii. Ensure that EMS is on the scene or en route. Where possible, EMS should be on-site when subject control is initiated.
- b. When the individual is responsive to verbal commands, one deputy should approach the subject and employ verbal techniques to help reduce his/her agitation before resorting to the use of force. The deputy should:
 - i. Not rush toward, become confrontational, verbally challenge, or attempt to intimidate the subject, as he/she may not comprehend or respond positively to these actions and may become even more agitated or combative; and
 - ii. Ask the subject to sit down, which may have a calming effect, and be prepared to repeat instructions or questions.
- c. Pepper spray, impact weapons, and electronic control weapons (ECWs) used in drive stun contact mode are normally ineffective due to the subject's elevated threshold of pain.
- d. If an ECW is used in probe mode, the deputy shall energize the suspect no longer than necessary to overcome resistance. The subject should be restrained as soon as practical while affected by ECW power.
- e. Alternately, a physical takedown using a swarming technique is an effective means of obtaining compliance as long as an adequate number of deputies is available.

A coordinated restraint plan should be devised quickly prior to implementing the takedown.
- f. Deputies should use only those restraints that appear necessary to control the situation and only for the period of time required.
- g. When restrained, deputies should position the subject in a manner that will assist breathing, such as placement on his/her side, and avoid pressure to the chest, neck, or head.
- h. Reasonable steps should be taken to avoid injuries, such as moving the subject from the asphalt to a grassy area to reduce abrasions and contusions.
- i. Deputies should not attempt to control continued resistance or exertion by pinning the subject to the ground or against a solid object, using their body weight.
- j. Deputies should check the subject's pulse and respiration on a continuous basis until transferred to EMS personnel. Deputies shall ensure the airway is unrestricted and be prepared to administer CPR or an automated external defibrillator (AED) if the subject becomes unconscious.

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k. If the subject becomes calm and breathing is not labored during or shortly after the application of restraints, it may be an indication that the subject is in jeopardy and requires immediate medical attention to avoid cardiac arrest.

l. Individual deputies who encounter a person exhibiting symptoms of an Acute Chaotic Event should adhere to the following guidelines.

i. When there is no apparent threat of immediate injury to the subject or others, the deputy should not attempt to take physical control of the subject. This would likely precipitate a struggle and exacerbate the subject's physical and emotional distress. The officer should wait for backup and EMS assistance before attempting to control the subject.

ii. If the subject poses a threat of death or serious bodily injury to the deputy, others, or to himself/herself, apart from the danger inherent in an Acute Chaotic Event alone, intervention should be taken using that level of force reasonably necessary to control the individual.

iii. If it can be determined that the subject has been under duress for an extended period of time, the symptoms of an Acute Chaotic Event appear acute, and EMS is not readily available, the deputy should consider affecting control and transporting the subject to the nearest emergency medical facility. This decision should be based largely on whether police backup and/or EMS assistance is forthcoming, and the deputy's judgment as to his or her ability to gain control through the use of ECWs or similar means without undue personal risk of bodily harm.

m. As soon as control is obtained, pre-staged EMS personnel should examine the subject and provide emergency medical aid as necessary, including sedation and cooling as indicated.

n. If sedation is authorized, deputies shall work with EMS to control the subject for the purposed of drug administration.

o. Whenever possible, a deputy should accompany the subject to the hospital for security purposes and provide assistance as necessary.

3. Documentation

Documentation of Acute Chaotic Event incidents is critical for purposes of post-incident personnel review and debriefing, training, creation of a historical record to respond effectively to any civil litigation that may arise, and to respond effectively to inquiries concerning the incident from the community and the media.

428.12 NON-SWORN INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Non-sworn members may be required to interact with persons in crisis in an administrative capacity, such as dispatching, records request, and animal control issues.

(a) Members should treat all individuals equally and with dignity and respect.

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- (b) If a member believes that he/she is interacting with a person in crisis, he/she should proceed patiently and in a calm manner.
- (c) Members should be aware and understand that the person may make unusual or bizarre claims or requests.

If a person's behavior makes the member feel unsafe, if the person is or becomes disruptive or violent, or if the person acts in such a manner as to cause the member to believe that the person may be harmful to him/herself or others, a deputy should be promptly summoned to provide assistance.

428.13 EVALUATION

The Division Chief designated to coordinate the crisis intervention strategy for this office should ensure that a thorough review and analysis of the office response to these incidents is conducted annually. The report will not include identifying information pertaining to any involved individuals, deputies or incidents and will be submitted to the Sheriff through the chain of command.

428.14 TRAINING

In coordination with the mental health community and appropriate stakeholders, the Office will develop and provide comprehensive education and training to all office members to enable them to effectively interact with persons in crisis.

Training shall include mandated training in crisis intervention, certified by the Criminal Justice Training Commission, as required by Washington law (RCW 43.101.427; WAC 139-09-020 et seq.).

Medical Aid and Response

429.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that Deputies and other designated members often encounter persons who appear to be in need of medical aid and establishes a law enforcement response to such situations.

429.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that all deputies and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

429.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, deputies should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the deputy should contact Dispatch and request response by emergency medical services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Deputies should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the deputy should provide Dispatch with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

- (a) The location where EMS is needed.
- (b) The nature of the incident.
- (c) Any known scene hazards.
- (d) Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:
 - (a) Signs and symptoms as observed by the deputy.
 - (b) Changes in apparent condition.
 - (c) Number of patients, sex and age, if known.
 - (d) Whether the person is conscious, breathing and alert, or is believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol.
 - (e) Whether the person is showing signs or symptoms of excited delirium or other agitated chaotic behavior.

Deputies should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Deputies should not direct EMS personnel whether to transport the person for treatment.

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429.4 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS

Except in extraordinary cases where alternatives are not reasonably available, deputies should not transport persons who are unconscious, who have serious injuries or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

Deputies should search any person who is in custody before releasing that person to EMS for transport.

A deputy should accompany any person in custody during transport in an ambulance when requested by EMS personnel, when it reasonably appears necessary to provide security, when it is necessary for investigative purposes or when so directed by a supervisor.

Deputies should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

429.5 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, a deputy shall not force that person to receive care or be transported. However, deputies may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where mental illness may be a factor, the deputy should consider proceeding with an emergency detention in accordance with the Emergency Detentions Policy 409.

If a deputy believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, the deputy should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The deputy may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person still refuses, the deputy will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the deputy should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Deputies shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

429.6 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared prior to booking. If the deputy has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the deputy should contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the deputy should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal, and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

Arrestees who appear to have a serious medical issue should be transported by ambulance. Deputies shall not transport an arrestee to a hospital without a supervisor's approval.

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Nothing in this section should delay a deputy from requesting EMS when an arrestee reasonably appears to be exhibiting symptoms that appear to be life threatening, including breathing problems or an altered level of consciousness, or is claiming an illness or injury that reasonably warrants an EMS response in accordance with the deputy's training.

429.7 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies.

429.8 AIR AMBULANCE/LIFE FLIGHT

Generally, when on-scene, EMS personnel will be responsible for determining whether an air ambulance response should be requested. An air ambulance may be appropriate when there are victims with life-threatening injuries or who require specialized treatment (e.g., gunshot wounds, burns, obstetrical cases), and distance or other known delays will affect the EMS response.

The Patrol Division Chief should develop guidelines for air ambulance landings or enter into local operating agreements for the use of air ambulances, as applicable. In creating those guidelines, the Office should identify:

- Responsibility and authority for designating a landing zone and determining the size of the landing zone.
- Responsibility for securing the area and maintaining that security once the landing zone is identified.
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for proximity to vertical obstructions and surface composition (e.g., dirt, gravel, pavement, concrete, grass).
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for horizontal clearance from structures, fences, power poles, antennas or roadways.
- Responsibility for notifying the appropriate highway or transportation agencies if a roadway is selected as a landing zone.
- Procedures for ground personnel to communicate with flight personnel during the operation.

An assigned deputy at the scene should be designated as the air ambulance communications contact. Headlights, spotlights and flashlights should not be aimed upward at the air ambulance. Deputies should direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from the landing zone.

Deputies should follow these cautions when near an air ambulance:

- Never approach the aircraft until signaled by the flight crew.
- Always approach the aircraft from the front.
- Avoid the aircraft's tail rotor area.

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- Wear eye protection during landing and take-off.
- Do not carry or hold items, such as IV bags, above the head.
- Ensure that no one smokes near the aircraft.

429.9 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE

A semi-automatic external defibrillator or AED should only be used by deputies who have completed a course approved by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) that includes instruction in CPR and the use of an AED (RCW 70.54.310).

429.9.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY

Deputies who are issued AEDs for use in assigned patrol vehicles should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly will be taken out of service and given to the Training Manager who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any deputy who uses an AED shall contact Dispatch as soon as possible and request response by EMS (RCW 70.54.310).

429.9.2 AED REPORTING

Any deputy using an AED will complete an incident report detailing its use. Any data from usage shall be made available, upon request, to EMS or other health care providers (RCW 70.54.310).

429.9.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE

The Training Manager should ensure appropriate training is provided to members authorized to use an AED.

The Training Manager is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and tested consistent with the manufacturer's operational guidelines, and will retain records of all maintenance in accordance with the established records retention schedule (RCW 70.54.310).

429.10 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION

Deputies may administer opioid overdose medication in accordance with protocol specified by the health care practitioner who prescribed the overdose medication for use by the member ([RCW 69.41.095](#)).

429.10.1 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputies who are qualified to administer opioid overdose medication, such as naloxone, should handle, store and administer the medication consistent with their training. Deputies should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Training Manager.

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Any deputy who administers an opioid overdose medication should contact Dispatch as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

429.10.2 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION REPORTING

Any deputy administering opioid overdose medication should detail its use in an appropriate report.

The Training Manager will ensure that the Chief Civil Deputy is provided enough information to meet applicable state reporting requirements.

429.10.3 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure training is provided to members authorized to administer opioid overdose medication.

429.11 FIRST AID TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Training Manager should ensure deputies receive periodic first aid training appropriate for their position.

Suspicious Activity Incident Reporting

430.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for reporting and investigating suspicious and criminal activity.

430.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Involved party - An individual who has been observed engaging in suspicious activity, as defined in this policy, when no definitive criminal activity can be identified, thus precluding the person's identification as a suspect.

Suspicious activity - Any reported or observed activity that a member reasonably believes may have a nexus to any criminal act or attempted criminal act, or to foreign or domestic terrorism. Actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability should not be considered as factors that create suspicion (although these factors may be used as specific suspect descriptions). Examples of suspicious activity may include but are not limited to:

- Suspected pre-operational surveillance or intelligence gathering (e.g., photographing security features, asking questions about sensitive security-related subjects).
- Tests of security measures and response to incidents (e.g., "dry run," creating false alarms, attempts to enter secure areas without authorization).
- Suspicious purchases (e.g., purchasing large quantities of otherwise legal items, such as fertilizer, that could be used to create an explosive or other dangerous device).
- An individual in possession of such things as a hoax explosive or dispersal device, sensitive materials (e.g., passwords, access codes, classified government information), or coded or ciphered literature or correspondence.

Suspicious Activity Incident Report (SAIR) - An incident report used to document suspicious activity.

430.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes the need to protect the public from criminal conduct and acts of terrorism and shall lawfully collect, maintain and disseminate information regarding suspicious activities, while safeguarding civil liberties and privacy protections.

430.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Investigation Division Chief and authorized designees will manage SAIR activities. Authorized designees should include supervisors who are responsible for office participation in criminal intelligence systems as outlined in the Criminal Organizations Policy.

The responsibilities of the Investigation Division Chief include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Remaining familiar with those databases available to the Office that would facilitate the purpose of this policy.

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- (b) Maintaining adequate training in the area of intelligence gathering to ensure no information is being maintained that would violate the law or civil rights of any individual.
- (c) Ensuring a process is available that would allow members to report relevant information. The process should be designed to promote efficient and quick reporting, and should not be cumbersome, duplicative or complicated.
- (d) Ensuring that members are made aware of the purpose and value of documenting information regarding suspicious activity, as well as the databases and other information resources that are available to the Office.
- (e) Ensuring that SAIR information is appropriately disseminated to members in accordance with their job responsibilities.
- (f) Coordinating investigative follow-up, if appropriate.
- (g) Coordinating with any appropriate agency or fusion center.
- (h) Ensuring that, as resources are available, the Office conducts outreach that is designed to encourage members of the community to report suspicious activity and that outlines what they should look for and how they should report it (e.g., website, public service announcements).

430.4 REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

Any office member receiving information regarding suspicious activity should take any necessary immediate and appropriate action, including a request for tactical response or immediate notification of specialized entities, when applicable. Any non-sworn member who receives such information should ensure that it is passed on to a deputy in a timely manner.

If the suspicious activity is not directly related to a reportable crime, the member should prepare a SAIR and include information about involved parties and the circumstances of the incident. If, during any investigation, a deputy becomes aware of suspicious activity that is unrelated to the current investigation, the information should be documented separately in a SAIR and not included in the original incident report. The report number of the original incident should be included in the SAIR as a cross reference. A SAIR should be processed as any other incident report.

430.5 HANDLING INFORMATION

The Records Section will forward copies of SAIRs, in a timely manner, to the following:

- Detective Unit supervisor
- Crime Analysis Unit
- Other authorized designees

Search and Rescue Functions

431.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy applies when conducting Search and Rescue (S.A.R.) functions within Skamania County, State of Washington.

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office (S.C.S.O.) is responsible for S.A.R. activities within Skamania County. Authority comes from the Revised Code of Washington (**RCW**) and Washington Administrative Codes (**WAC**).

- [RCW 38.52.400](#) states: The Chief Law Enforcement Officer of each political subdivision shall be responsible for local search and rescue activities.
- [WAC 118.04](#) : Guidelines for Emergency Worker Programs.

431.2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

SAR Coordinator - The SAR Coordinator is responsible for resource coordination, multi-jurisdiction operations coordination, and administration of the incident or mission requiring specialized resources for completion.

Evidence Search - means an unscheduled, nonemergency training activity utilizing emergency worker skills to look for evidentiary material resulting from criminal activity.

Incident - means an occurrence or event, either human-caused or natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency services personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or the environment.

Mission - means a distinct assignment of personnel and equipment to achieve a set of tasks related to an incident, emergency, disaster, or search and rescue operation that occurs under the direction and control of a local authorized official.

Training Event - means a planned, nonemergency activity for the development, maintenance, or upgrading of emergency worker skills.

431.3 S.A.R. ASSETS/RESOURCES

- **Air Force Rescue Coordination Center Air Assets (A.F.R.C.C.)**
- **International Emergency Response Communication Center (I.E.R.C.C.)**
- **Skamania County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue**
- **Volcano Rescue Team (V.R.T.)**
- **Portland Mountain Rescue (P.M.R.)**
- **Silver Star Search and Rescue**

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- Clark County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue
- Pacific Crest Search Dogs
- Evergreen Search Dogs

431.4 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to provide a measured response of trained personnel and available resources in an effort to prevent, minimize, respond to or recover from an emergency.

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office S.A.R. program's primary mission is to provide search and rescue and recovery services. At the discretion of the Sheriff or in the event of an emergency, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office S.A.R. and it's volunteers may provide assistance to emergency service agencies. The Search and Rescue Division may also provide other community service as approved by the Search and Rescue Volunteer Council and the Sheriff.

431.5 S.A.R. COORDINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will have a pool of qualified Search and Rescue Coordinators to manage search and rescue activities within the county. Selected coordinators will be responsible to the Sheriff. S.C.S.O. Coordinators must complete a required Search and Rescue Management Course, sponsored by the Washington State Emergency Management Division. They must also be required to assist a certified S.C.S.O. S.A.R. Coordinator in no less than (3) in-county S.A.R. incidents as a Search and Rescue Coordinator trainee. Once the trainee conducts no less than (3) missions, they will be evaluated to see if they are to be utilized as a resource within the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office will keep an updated SAR Coordinator resource call-out list available for dispatch in the event of an emergency situation.

S.C.S.O. S.A.R. Coordinators will have no less than 4 hours of annual in-service trainings. These trainings are, but not limited to: actual S.A.R. missions, policy review, updated S.A.R. information, use and operation of S.A.R. Equipment, State S.A.R. Conference, participation in local S.A.R. Team trainings, etc.

S.A.R. Coordinators will manage volunteers and other available resources, regardless of jurisdiction or affiliation, to the best advantage of the missing, stranded, or injured person as he/she sees fit, and conduct the operation according to the principles of the Incident Command System. The best-equipped and trained emergency medical services resource available will perform the medical aid elements of a rescue/evacuation operation whenever possible. The S.A.R. Coordinators will send S.A.R. volunteers to participate in a search for evidence associated with a specific investigation. S.A.R. volunteers will not be used for incidents involving the detection or apprehension of persons in the act of committing a crime, except in a support capacity where there is reasonable assurance that they will not be exposed to potentially dangerous persons.

Search and Rescue Functions

431.6 CALL-OUT MISSIONS

Call-outs of Search and Rescue personnel are conducted by telephone and S.M.S. (Text) through the S.C.S.O. Communication Center. Call-outs maybe assisted by C.C.S.O. Dispatch, (C.R.E.S.A.), and/or volunteer S.A.R. personnel rosters conducted by the individual teams. At no time will volunteers be activated without the approval of the S.C.S.O. Anytime S.A.R. volunteers are utilized by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, a State E.M.D. Number will be requested.

[WAC 118.04.2](#) [40](#) .

Registering Temporary S.A.R. Volunteers

When the lack of available time, or resources, precludes the completion of volunteer registration and identification card, the person's name, assignment, date and time of work, total hours worked, and miles driven, (if applicable) will be completed on an emergency worker daily activity report, () or equivalent. This will suffice until such time as the required forms can be completed.

In these cases, the emergency workers date of birth shall be used in lieu of an emergency worker identification card number in the appropriate block on the form

In the event of an emergency, people may be registered on a temporary basis to meet needs.

See: [WAC 118.04.080](#)

Temporary Volunteers will be supervised

Whenever possible, temporary volunteers will be supervised by trained S.A.R. volunteers and will be overseen by a S.C.S.O. S.A.R. Coordinator.

One or more of the following search types will be assigned:

Type 1 (hasty search) 2-person teams will move quickly along paths of least resistance to points of interest, looking for obvious signs of passage or places where a fatigued or injured subject would seek shelter. Usually used early in a search incident, hasty search will emphasize attraction and notification. Probability of Detection (P.O.D.) 15-30% (higher in exact route, lower in surrounding area)

Type 2 (area search) is more organized but still rapid, often with 3-person teams and wide spacing. Often one member will follow a compass bearing or identifiable terrain feature, and other members will flank at or near visual distance, depending on conditions. P.O.D. 25 - 40%.

Type 3 (loose grid search) is a thorough search of a smaller area, usually used later in an incident when some possible clues or evidence have been located and the subject is more likely down and not responsive. A large number of searchers will proceed line abreast in a direction

Search and Rescue Functions

perpendicular to the line. Their spacing will be relatively close, moving slowly and deliberately to maximize their probability of detection. Searchers should maintain line integrity, neither lagging behind nor forging ahead. P.O.D. 40 - 60%.

Type 4 (tight grid search) is used to locate small items of evidence (like a shell casing or piece of torn garment) and involves the searchers spaced very close together, looking closely at each square foot of area. Metal detectors or infrared devices may also be used. Very labor intensive, this is the most thorough search we will perform. P.O.D. may approach 80% (but will trample all remaining clues).

Conclusion of Missions

At the conclusion of each mission each S.A.R volunteer will be accounted for and sign out on the aforementioned form. It is the S.A.R. Coordinators responsibility to determine if any S.A.R. volunteer suffered any type of injury and/or lost or damaged property. The S.A.R. Coordinator will close the mission number through ***The Washington State Emergency Management Division E.M.D.*** A report will be authored to detail the operation and its conclusion.

DIVE RESCUE

432.1 INTRODUCTION

The Skamania County Sheriff's Department desires to establish a well trained team of Volunteer Rescue Divers to supplement the Sheriff's Office Dive Team. This Dive Team will be activated for water related incidents, and/or any other incident where diving operations may be needed. i.e. evidence searches, vehicle recoveries, etc.

With a large part of Skamania County containing bodies of water, including adjacent counties and in the State of Oregon, we are often faced with water related accidents, or the need for underwater evidence recoveries. This team may be used in any type of situation in lakes, rivers, and/or other water bodies. It is important that all divers be in excellent physical and mental condition. Due to the high risk of injury and / or death involved in diving, Sheriffs Office Divers should be highly trained and qualified.

The primary goal is to provide specially trained and equipped personnel capable of responding to water related emergencies and subsequently performing underwater dive rescue / recovery operations. In addition, to provide a readily available dive team for the recovery of evidence of a crime and to participate in community programs to educate the public about safe water activities.

To assist dive team members to achieve excellent diving skills consistent with the needs of the team and to maintain these skills with continuing training.

To provide a ready resource to the Sheriff's Office for rescue in water emergencies and other law enforcement needs.

432.2 DIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

All Sheriff's Office Divers must be "Certified" Scuba Divers. Certification must come from a nationally recognized organization, i.e., NAUI, PADI, etc. Divers will be required to qualify as "Rescue Diver" within two years after acceptance to the team. Volunteers are also required to be certified in "Basic First Aid and CPR". Volunteers are responsible for any costs incurred for required training. Dive team members must adhere to any established training standards provided by the nationally recognized organization.

Divers must submit an application showing name, past training's, special skills, and the reason he/she wants to be part of the dive team. The applicant must be accepted by the Sheriff and/or Team Leader. The Team Leader, with the approval of the Sheriff and / or Chief SAR Deputy, may terminate a volunteer from the Dive Team for any violation of policy, acting in an unprofessional manner (both on and off activation), for any safety violations or concern, for any behavior reasons, delinquency, and / or any other reason that disrupts the unity of the team.

Volunteer divers must complete an Emergency Worker Registration Card and be issued an Emergency Worker Registration number through the local Department of Emergency

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Management for the State of Washington. These D.E.M. cards will be returned to the Sheriff's Office if member is no longer part of the dive team.

The Skamania County Sheriff will designate a Sheriff's Office Dive Team Leader to oversee the Volunteer Dive Rescue Team. An Assistant Dive Team Leader will be selected by the Team Leader to oversee the teams operation in the absence of the Team Leader. In an emergency situation where both the Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader are not available, the Deputy on scene will assign a member of the dive team to act as team leader. The Dive Team Leader will schedule regular in service training's for the team throughout the year. No less than six mandatory trainings will be scheduled each year. Each diver is required to participate in mandatory trainings unless they have prior absence approval from the team leader.

Divers who fail to maintain adequate training are subject to dismissal from the team. Team trainings will consist of: search patterns. Diver entrapments, underwater navigation, evidence collection, underwater crime scenes, dive rescue skills, line tether skills, full face mask refreshers, underwater communications, rigging and lift bagging, basic white water skills, basic ropes, knots, and repelling skills, live boating, night dives, body bagging, pontoon boat operation, area familiarizations, and other specialized areas of diving operations.

Additional diving support, (volunteer fire dept, search and rescue teams, etc.) may be needed and designated by the Team Leader. Diver support staff will assist the divers with various functions during incidents and / or training. Support personnel will be directly supervised by the on scene dive team leader and/or safety dive officer.

432.3 GENERAL DIVING SAFETY GUIDELINES

The following will be strictly adhered to by all members of the Sheriff's Office Dive Team to insure maximum safety and effective accomplishment of the missions:

- No underwater search mission will be attempted with less than two certified divers and one surface support person. Single diver operations avoided unless in an emergency. If single diver operations are done, the diver is responsible for safety concerns and he/she will not exceed the scope of the individuals training and/or experience.
- Boats and other surface equipment will be operated by authorized personnel only. Qualified operators will be designated by the team leader, and/or lead law enforcement officer on scene. Boat operators will be briefed on diving operations and safety precautions.
- Unless in an emergency, in the event of a submerged vehicle, a tow truck, with overhead boom will be on station when divers are in the water. This is to help prevent the potential risk of a diver being entrapped, or pinned by a heavy object and have the capability of removing object by tow winch.
- Each diver will insure they have had adequate rest prior to a dive.

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- No alcohol will be consumed 12 hours prior to a dive.
- No medication that could be detrimental to physical or mental capabilities will be taken 24 hours prior to the dive.
- No dive will be conducted for at least 8 hours after any type of "Inoculation". All divers are encouraged to be vaccinated for current health risks and/or infectious diseases including, but not limited to, Hepatitis A & B.
- Each diver will perform a thorough pre-dive check of their individual equipment prior to making a dive. Under no circumstance will equipment suspected of defect be used.
- All personnel on the dive site will be briefed for the particular mission and set a dive plan.
- It is the responsibility of all divers not to dive if they do not feel qualified or comfortable diving in the situation.
- No diver will be allowed in the water who has a known medical problem which will render unsafe diving conditions.
- Rescue personnel at a dive site will have on a personal floatation device with the exception of the divers in exposure suits.
- No diver will be allowed to enter the water if the Team Leader, Safety Officer, and / or on scene medic deems the divers health at risk.
- Unless in an extreme emergency, no dive team member will respond, dive, or act in any official capacity for any outside agency without prior approval of the Dive Team Leader and / or Chief SAR Deputy.
- All divers will wear, or have in their immediate possession, a medical alert identification tag (provided by the Sheriff's Office) for a minimum of "." after a dive. This medical alert identification tag will notify emergency medical personnel of potential decompression illness (DCS) if a diver is unresponsive and is involved in a emergency medical situation. These identification tags will be returned to the Sheriff's Office if member is no longer part of the dive team

432.4 PRE-ACCIDENT PLAN

The purpose of the pre-accident plan is to describe procedures to be used in preventing accidents from occurring. All Sheriff's Office Divers shall act as a "Safety Officer" and conduct safety briefings that relate to the difficulties of various diving locations. Safety Officers must be aware of overall underwater and surface safety.

432.5 HAZARDOUS DIVING

Depending on the season, many of our local rivers can be extremely hazardous to dive. Special diving techniques must be used as a guide for diving in such waters.

- No diver will be required to dive in any water that they feel is unsafe. Anytime the rivers are high, such as during spring runoff, it is extremely dangerous to go into the water.

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If dives become necessary during this time, an on site inspection will be made by the dive team prior to entry into the water.

- The Columbia River provides its own special hazards during all seasons of the year. The current is extremely fast and there are numerous whirlpools and potholes. Visibility is very poor, often a few inches or less. Other hazards are boats and ships using the river, fishnets, and hydroelectric dams.
- The Washougal, Wind, Lewis, and White Salmon Rivers become very dangerous during winter and spring months. These rivers are very fast and any person making dives during these times should be tethered. Access to these rivers is another safety concern and should be evaluated by divers prior to entering the water.

With proper equipment and training the above mentioned rivers can be used by the dive teams during all seasons, however, they do present special hazards and challenges requiring special care and strict adherence to established safety rules.

432.6 CALL-OUT PROCEDURES

Call-outs of Search and Rescue personnel are conducted by telephone and S.M.S. (Text) through the S.C.S.O. Communication Center. Call-outs maybe assisted by C.C.S.O. Dispatch, Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (C.R.E.S.A.)

All Sheriff's Office Divers will be available 24 hrs. a day, seven days a week. If a diver is out of the area for an extended period of time, (two weeks or longer) it is the responsibility of the diver to notify the Sheriff's Office Dive Team Leader of his/her absence. The Sheriff's Office Dive Team Leader is responsible for keeping an updated list of dive team members and providing the resource list to dispatch.

432.7 MISSION PLANNING

The divers on the dive team will have the responsibility of overall mission planning. Each diver should be aware of all aspects of mission planning and considerations should include: number of dives, planning efficient access to various dive sites, dive tables, transportation, equipment needed, and safety concerns.

432.8 RESCUE PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES

The following dive procedures will address search patterns. The proper search technique will be discussed prior to entering the water.

In underwater rescue work, the dive team will usually descend from a known point, established by a surface fix and search the immediate bottom, making sure all areas are covered visually or by other means until the object of the search is recovered. A search pattern is an established procedure by which a specific area is known to be amply covered for the purpose of finding the object. Search patterns can be developed by mechanical means with the use of lines, or by

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being led from a boat or using landmarks to establish bearings. All search patterns should start from a position which has been selected as being the probable location of the object of the search.

For specialized rescue operations, i.e. Ice dives, Cave dives, and Altitude dives, it shall be the discretion of the Sheriff's Office Divers to determine if the diving conditions are within their scope of training, equipment, and experience.

Evidence Searches / Recoveries will be carried out in accordance to Law Enforcement protocols set forth by the Dive Team Leader and / or L.E.O. Case Officer.

432.9 TRAINING

The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for maintaining the certification training documentation for Dive Team members. Each diver should keep a log book on actual dives, including information as to number of dives, depths, and other related conditions. Divers are encouraged to seek specialized and advanced training to improve their skills. If a diver completes a specialized diving course, the diver will provide a copy of the certification to the Team Leader for his/her training file.

An annual report will be prepared by the Dive Team Leader and submitted to the sheriff to document the teams activities.

Chapter 5 - Traffic Operations

Traffic Function and Responsibility

500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on collision data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, and traffic conditions. This office provides enforcement efforts toward violations, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in collision situations, but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

500.2 TRAFFIC DEPUTY DEPLOYMENT

Several factors are considered in the development of deployment schedules for deputies of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The eTRIP (Electronic Traffic Information Processing) initiative is a collaborative effort among state and local agencies to maintain a seamless and integrated system through which traffic-related information can travel from its point of origin to its end use and analysis. Information provided by the Electronic Traffic Information Processing (eTRIP) data retrieval system is a valuable resource for traffic collision occurrences and deputy deployment. Some of the factors for analysis include:

- Location
- Time
- Day
- Violation factors

All deputies assigned to patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize enforcement of collision causing violations during high collision hours and at locations of occurrence. All deputies will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate against violators as a matter of routine. All deputies shall maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially at high collision locations.

Other factors to be considered for deployment are citizen requests, construction zones or special events.

500.3 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This office does not establish ticket quotas and the number of arrests or citations issued by any deputy shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating deputy overall performance. The visibility and quality of a deputy's work effort will be commensurate with the philosophy of this policy. Several methods are effective in the reduction of collisions:

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Traffic Function and Responsibility

500.3.1 WARNINGS

Warnings or other non-punitive enforcement actions should be considered in each situation and substituted for arrests or citations when circumstances warrant, especially in the case of inadvertent violations.

500.3.2 CITATIONS

Citations may be issued when a deputy believes it is appropriate. It is essential that deputies fully explain the rights and requirements imposed on motorists upon issuance of a citation for a traffic violation. Deputies should provide the following information at a minimum:

- (a) Explanation of the violation or charge.
- (b) Court appearance procedure including the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist.
- (c) Notice of whether the motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court.

500.3.3 ARRESTS FOR TRAFFIC OFFENSES

Deputies may issue a traffic citation for any criminal traffic offense or infraction when such violations are committed in a deputy's presence or as allowed pursuant to [RCW 10.31.100](#) . With limited exceptions, the detention in such cases may not be for a period of time longer than is reasonably necessary to issue and serve a citation to the violator.

A traffic-related detention may expand to a physical arrest under the following circumstances:

- (a) When the deputy has probable cause to believe that a felony has been committed, whether or not it was in the deputy's presence
- (b) When the offense is one or more of the traffic violations listed in RCW 10.31.100
- (c) When a driver has been detained for a traffic offense listed in [RCW 46.63.020](#) and fails to provide adequate identification or when the deputy has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be cited will not respond to a written citation. In such cases, deputies should, when practicable, obtain the approval of a supervisor before making an arrest.

500.4 SUSPENDED OR REVOKED DRIVERS LICENSES

If a deputy contacts a traffic violator who is also driving on a suspended or revoked license, the deputy should issue a traffic citation or make an arrest as appropriate.

500.4.1 SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR CANCELED COMMERCIAL LICENSE PLATES

If a deputy contacts a traffic violator who is operating a commercial truck, truck tractor or tractor with registration that a computer check confirms to be revoked, suspended or canceled, the deputy shall confiscate the license plates. The Office may either recycle or destroy the plates ([RCW 46.32.100](#)).

Traffic Function and Responsibility

500.5 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

The Office has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to increase the visibility of office members who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery, and equipment (23 CFR 655.601).

Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic related assignments, high-visibility vests shall be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the member.

500.5.1 REQUIRED USE

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time it is anticipated that an employee will be exposed to the hazards of approaching traffic or construction and recovery equipment.

Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, accident investigations, lane closures, and while at disaster scenes, or anytime high visibility is desirable.

When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, deputies should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit. Use of the vests shall be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

Vests maintained in the investigation units may be used any time a plainclothes deputy might benefit from being readily identified as a member of law enforcement.

500.5.2 CARE AND STORAGE OF HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

High-visibility vests shall be maintained in the trunk of each patrol and investigation unit, in the side box of each sheriff's motorcycle and in the saddlebag or gear bag of each sheriff's bicycle. Each vest should be stored inside the resealable plastic bag provided to protect and maintain the vest in a serviceable condition. Before going into service each employee shall ensure a serviceable high-visibility vest is properly stored.

A supply of high-visibility vests will be maintained in the equipment room for replacement of damaged or unserviceable vests. The Training Manager should be promptly notified whenever the supply of vests in the equipment room needs replenishing.

500.6 HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITIONS

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will make all reasonable efforts to address all reported hazardous road conditions in a timely manner as circumstances and resources permit.

500.7 TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS BY CROSSING GUARDS

Crossing guards have the authority to submit reports to this office for certain violations occurring in and around crosswalks ([RCW 46.61.275](#)). Generally these reports may be for offenses involving a driver's failure to stop at a crosswalk or to exercise due care for pedestrians. Reports must be received no later than 72 hours after the violation occurred.

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This office will give due consideration and will investigate, to a reasonable degree, reports of violations submitted by crossing guards, in an effort to identify the alleged violator. If the driver is identified and there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of RCW 46.61.235(5), RCW 46.61.245(2) or RCW 46.61.261(2) has occurred, a notice of traffic infraction should be issued.

The Patrol Sergeant shall ensure that appropriate forms for reporting violations are available to crossing guards and that a procedure for investigating the reports received by this office is in place.

500.7.1 NOTIFICATION OF INFRACTION

The Patrol Sergeant or a designee may initiate an investigation of the reported violation after receiving a report from a crossing guard. The investigator shall contact the last known owner of the violator vehicle and request the owner to supply information identifying the driver. If the driver is identified and there is reasonable cause to believe that a traffic violation has occurred, a notice of infraction may be served upon the driver of the vehicle (RCW 46.61.275(2)).

500.8 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY CAMERAS

Any school district with buses properly equipped with cameras that capture stop-arm violations may report such violations to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office whenever they occur within the office's jurisdiction.

The Patrol Sergeant should establish a report form and procedure for school districts to report school bus stop-arm violations ([RCW 46.63.180](#)).

500.8.1 NOTIFICATION OF INFRACTION

The Patrol Sergeant or the authorized designee should initiate an investigation of the reported violation after receiving a stop-arm violation report from a school district.

Issuance of a citation shall conform to state requirements (RCW 46.63.180). The notice of infraction shall be mailed to the registered owner or renter, if applicable, of the vehicle within 14 days of the violation.

Traffic Collision Reporting

501.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office prepares traffic collision reports (Police Traffic Collision Reports {P.T.C.R.}) and as a public service makes traffic collision reports available to the community with some exceptions.

501.2 TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORTS

All (P.T.C.R.) traffic collision reports taken by members of this office shall be forwarded to the Traffic Bureau for approval and data entry into the Records Management System. The Patrol Sergeant will be responsible for monthly and quarterly reports on traffic collision statistics to be forwarded to the Patrol Division Chief, or other persons as required.

501.2.1 STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC COLLISION AND TICKET ONLINE RECORDS (SECTOR)

This office utilizes SECTOR software to complete traffic citations and (P.T.C.R.) traffic collision reports. SECTOR shall only be used by those authorized employees who have completed office-approved training in the use of SECTOR software. All traffic collision reports completed with SECTOR software shall comply with established report approval requirements.

All reports completed using SECTOR software should be downloaded to the designated server as soon as practicable or in any case prior to the end of the employee's shift.

501.3 REPORTING SITUATIONS

501.3.1 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS INVOLVING COUNTY VEHICLES

Traffic collision investigation reports shall be taken when a County-owned vehicle is involved in a traffic collision upon a roadway or highway wherein any damage or injury results. A general information report may be taken in lieu of a (P.T.C.R.) traffic collision report at the direction of a supervisor when the collision occurs on private property or does not involve another vehicle. Whenever there is damage to a County vehicle, a Vehicle Damage Report shall be completed and forwarded to the appropriate Division Chief.

Photographs of the collision scene and vehicle damage shall be taken at the discretion of the traffic investigator or any supervisor.

501.3.2 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES

When an employee of this office, either on-duty or off-duty, is involved in a traffic collision within the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office resulting in a serious injury or fatality, the Patrol Sergeant or the Shift Sergeant, may notify the Washington State Patrol for assistance.

The term serious injury is defined as any injury that may result in a fatality.

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Traffic Collision Reporting

501.3.3 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH OTHER COUNTY EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS

The Patrol Sergeant or on-duty Shift Sergeant may request assistance from the Washington State Patrol for the investigation of any traffic collision involving any County official or employee where a serious injury or fatality has occurred.

501.3.4 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Traffic collision reports shall not be taken for traffic collisions occurring on private property, unless there is a death or injury to any person involved, a hit-and-run violation, or RCW violation. An Incident Report may be taken at the discretion of any supervisor.

501.3.5 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON ROADWAYS OR HIGHWAYS

Traffic collision reports shall be taken when they occur on a roadway or highway within the jurisdiction of this office under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) When there is a death or injury to any persons involved in the collision.
- (b) When there is an identifiable violation of the Revised Code of Washington.
- (c) Property damage exceeding the dollar amount currently established by the Washington State Patrol.
- (d) When a report is requested by any involved driver.

In all cases where a traffic collision report is required by policy, the current state authorized form will be used to document the collision ([RCW 46.52.070](#)) .

Vehicle Towing and Release

502.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides the procedures for towing a vehicle by or at the direction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

502.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of those employees storing or impounding a vehicle are as follows.

502.2.1 REMOVAL OF VEHICLE DISABLED IN A TRAFFIC COLLISION

When a vehicle has been involved in a traffic collision and must be removed from the scene, the deputy shall have the driver select a towing company, if possible, and shall relay the request for the specified towing company to the dispatcher. When there is no preferred company requested, a company will be selected from the rotational list of towing companies in Dispatch.

If the owner is incapacitated, or for any reason it is necessary for the Office to assume responsibility for a vehicle involved in a collision, the deputy shall request the dispatcher to call the official towing company/garage for the County of Skamania. The deputy will then store the vehicle using the Uniform Washington State Tow/Impound and Inventory Record.

502.2.2 DRIVING A NON-COUNTY VEHICLE

Vehicles which have been towed by or at the direction of the Office should not be driven by Sheriff's personnel unless it is necessary to move a vehicle a short distance to eliminate a hazard, prevent the obstruction of a fire hydrant, or to comply with posted signs.

502.2.3 DISPATCHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receiving a request for towing, the dispatcher shall promptly telephone the specified authorized towing service. The deputy shall be advised when the request has been made and the towing service has been dispatched.

When there is no preferred company requested, the dispatcher shall call the next firm in rotation from the list of approved towing companies and shall make appropriate entries on that form to ensure the following firm is called on the next request.

502.2.4 RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever a stolen vehicle is impounded by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, Records Section personnel will promptly attempt to notify the legal owner of the recovery ([RCW 7.69.030](#) (7)).

502.3 TOWING SERVICES

The County of Skamania periodically selects a firm to act as the official tow service and awards a contract to that firm. This firm will be used in the following situations:

- (a) When it is necessary to safeguard a vehicle due to the inability of the owner or operator to take the required action.

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- (b) When a vehicle is being held as evidence in connection with an investigation.
- (c) When it is otherwise necessary to store a motor vehicle. This would include situations involving the recovery of stolen or abandoned vehicles, and the removal from the streets of vehicles obstructing traffic in violation of state or local regulations.

Nothing in this policy shall require the Office to tow a vehicle.

502.4 STORAGE AT ARREST SCENES

Whenever a person in charge or in control of a vehicle is arrested, it is the policy of this office to provide reasonable safekeeping for the arrestee's vehicle. The vehicle shall be stored whenever it is mandated by law, needed for the furtherance of an investigation or prosecution of the case, or when the Community Caretaker Doctrine would reasonably suggest it. For example, the vehicle would present a traffic hazard if not removed, or due to a high crime area the vehicle would be in jeopardy of theft or damage if left at the scene.

No impound should occur if other alternatives are available that would ensure the vehicle's protection. Factors that should be considered by deputies in determining whether to impound a vehicle pursuant to this policy include:

- (a) Whether the offense for which the subject was arrested mandates vehicle impound (e.g., commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9A.88.140(2))).
- (b) Whether someone is available at the scene of the arrest to whom the vehicle could be released.
- (c) Whether the vehicle is impeding the flow of traffic or is a danger to public safety.
- (d) Whether the vehicle can be secured.
- (e) Whether the detention of the arrestee will likely be of such duration as to require protection of the vehicle.
- (f) Whether there is some reasonable connection between the crime/arrest and the vehicle, or the vehicle is related to the commission of another crime (i.e., the vehicle itself has evidentiary value).
- (g) Whether the owner/operator requests that the vehicle be stored.
- (h) Whether the vehicle would be in jeopardy of theft or damage if left at the scene in a high-crime area.

In cases where a vehicle is not stored, the handling employee shall note in the report that the owner was informed that the Office will not be responsible for theft or damages to the vehicle.

502.5 VEHICLE INVENTORY

All property in a stored or impounded vehicle shall be inventoried and listed on the vehicle storage form. A locked vehicle trunk shall not be opened, even if it may be opened without a key from an

Vehicle Towing and Release

accessible area of the passenger compartment. Locked or closed containers located within the passenger compartment should be inventoried as a sealed unit, absent exigent circumstances.

Members conducting inventory searches should be as thorough and accurate as practical in preparing an itemized inventory. These inventory procedures are for the purpose of protecting an owner's property while in sheriff's custody, to provide for the safety of deputies, and to protect the Office against fraudulent claims of lost, stolen, or damaged property.

502.6 SECURITY OF VEHICLES AND PROPERTY

Unless it would cause an unreasonable delay in the completion of a vehicle impound/storage or create an issue of officer safety, deputies should make reasonable accommodations to permit a driver/owner to retrieve small items of value or personal need (e.g. cash, jewelry, cell phone, prescriptions) which are not considered evidence or contraband.

If a search of a vehicle leaves the vehicle or any property contained therein vulnerable to unauthorized entry, theft or damage, search personnel shall take such steps as are reasonably necessary to secure and/or preserve the vehicle or property from such hazards.

Vehicle Impound Hearings

503.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a procedure for the requirement to provide vehicle storage or impound validity hearings.

503.2 IMPOUND HEARING

When a vehicle is impounded by any member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, a hearing will be conducted upon the request of the registered or legal owner of the vehicle or their agent ([RCW 46.55.240](#)).

503.2.1 HEARING PROCEDURES

When requested, a hearing will be held at the Skamania County Sheriff's Office within five days of the receipt of the request. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will appoint a Hearing Officer who will conduct the hearing and render a judgment. The Deputy who is responsible for the removal of the vehicle does not need to be present for this hearing.

All requests for a hearing on an impounded vehicle shall be submitted in person, writing, or by telephone within ten days of the date appearing on the notice. The person requesting the hearing may record the hearing at his/her own expense.

The vehicle impound hearing officer shall consider all information provided and determine whether the vehicle was impounded consistent with law and department policy. The Agency will have the burden of proving by preponderance of the evidence that the vehicle was impounded lawfully and within policy.

If a decision is made that the vehicle was impounded within the law and department policy, the hearing officer shall advise the inquiring party that they may appeal the decision with the district court for a final judgment (RCW 46.55.240(1)(d)).

A decision that the vehicle was not impounded in a lawful manner or within department policy will require that the vehicle in impound be released immediately. Towing and storage fees will be paid at the Agency's expense (RCW 46.55.120(3)(e)).

If a decision is made that the vehicle was not impounded in a lawful manner or within department policy, and the vehicle has been released with fees having been paid, the receipt for such fees will be forwarded with a letter to the appropriate Division Chief. The hearing officer will recommend to the appropriate Division Chief that the fees paid by the registered or legal owner of the vehicle in question or their agent be reimbursed by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

Impaired Driving

504.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to those office members who play a role in the detection and investigation of driving under the influence (DUI).

504.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to the safety of the roadways and the community and will pursue fair but aggressive enforcement of Washington's impaired driving laws. Deputies will follow this policy for investigating incidents of driving under the influence & physical control (DUI/PC) related crimes.

504.3 INVESTIGATIONS

All deputies are expected to enforce these laws with due diligence.

The Patrol Sergeant will develop and maintain, in consultation with the prosecuting attorney, report forms with appropriate checklists to assist investigating deputies in documenting relevant information and maximizing efficiency. Any DUI investigation will be documented using these forms. Information documented elsewhere on the form does not need to be duplicated in the report narrative. Information that should be documented includes, at a minimum:

- (a) The standardized field sobriety tests (SFSTs) administered and the results.
- (b) The deputy's observations that indicate impairment on the part of the individual, and the deputy's health-related inquiries that may help to identify any serious health concerns (e.g., diabetic shock).
- (c) Sources of additional information (e.g., reporting party, witnesses) and their observations.
- (d) Information about any audio and/or video recording of the individual's driving or subsequent actions.
- (e) The location and time frame of the individual's vehicle operation and how this was determined.
- (f) Any prior related convictions in Washington or another jurisdiction.
- (g) Whether a child under the age of 16 was present in the vehicle (RCW 46.61.507).

504.4 FIELD TESTS

The Patrol Sergeant should identify standardized FSTs and any approved alternate tests for deputies to use when investigating violations of DUI laws.

504.5 BREATH TEST PROGRAM PERMIT

Sergeants and Deputies assigned to Patrol or to conduct traffic emphasis, or who regularly wear a uniform while on duty, will maintain a current Breath Test Program Permit.

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- Impaired driving recertification classes are required every three years.

Only sworn personnel with a current Breath Test Program Permit will administer an evidentiary breath test.

504.6 CHEMICAL TESTS

A person implies consent under Washington law to a chemical test or tests of the person's breath and to providing the associated chemical sample under any of the following (RCW 46.20.308):

- (a) The arresting deputy has reasonable grounds to believe the person was driving or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug.
- (b) The arresting deputy has reasonable grounds to believe a person under the age of 21 was driving or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while having a blood alcohol concentration of at least 0.02 (RCW 46.61.503).
- (c) The deputy has stopped a person operating a commercial motor vehicle license (CDL) and has reasonable grounds to believe that the person was driving while having alcohol in the person's system (RCW 46.25.120).

If a person withdraws this implied consent, the deputy should consider implied consent revoked and proceed as though the person has refused to provide a chemical sample.

Nothing precludes a law enforcement officer from obtaining a person's blood to test for alcohol, marijuana, or any drug, pursuant to a search warrant, a valid waiver of the warrant requirement, when exigent circumstances exist, or under any other authority of law. Any blood drawn for the purpose of determining the person's alcohol, marijuana levels, or any drug, is drawn pursuant to this section when the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person is in physical control or driving a vehicle under the influence or in violation of RCW [46.61.502](#) , RCW [46.61.503](#) , RCW [46.61.504](#) .

504.6.1 STATUTORY NOTIFICATIONS

A deputy requesting that a person submit to a chemical test shall provide the person, prior to administering the test, with the mandatory warnings pursuant to [RCW 46.20.308](#) (2) or if driving a commercial vehicle the warnings pursuant to [RCW 46.25.120](#) (3).

504.6.2 BREATH SAMPLES

The Patrol Sergeant should ensure that all devices used for the collection and analysis of breath samples are properly serviced and tested, and that a record of such service and testing is properly maintained.

Deputies obtaining a breath sample should monitor the device for any sign of malfunction. Any anomalies or equipment failures should be noted in the appropriate report and promptly reported to the Patrol Sergeant.

Generally, chemical tests to determine alcohol concentration shall be of the breath only (RCW 46.20.308; RCW 46.25.120).

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504.6.3 BLOOD SAMPLES

Only persons authorized by law to draw blood shall collect blood samples (RCW 46.61.506). The blood draw should be witnessed by the assigned deputy. No deputy, even if properly certified, should perform this task.

Deputies should inform an arrestee that if he/she chooses to provide a blood sample, a separate sample can be collected for alternate testing. Unless medical personnel object, two samples should be drawn and retained as evidence, so long as only one puncture is required.

The blood sample shall be packaged, marked, handled, stored and transported as required by the testing facility.

If an arrestee cannot submit to a blood draw because he/she has a bleeding disorder or has taken medication that inhibits coagulation, he/she shall not be required to take a blood test. Such inability to take a blood test should not be considered a refusal. However, that arrestee may be required to complete another available and viable test.

A blood sample may be obtained only with the consent of the individual or as otherwise provided in this policy (RCW 46.20.308; RCW 46.25.120).

504.7 REFUSALS

When an arrestee refuses to provide a chemical sample, deputies shall:

- (a) Advise the arrestee of the requirement to provide a sample.
- (b) Audio- and/or video-record the admonishment and the response when it is practicable.
- (c) Document the refusal in the appropriate report.

504.7.1 BLOOD SAMPLE WITHOUT CONSENT

A blood sample may be obtained from a person who has been arrested and does not consent to a blood test when any of the following conditions exist (RCW 46.20.308; RCW 46.25.120):

- (a) A search warrant has been obtained.
- (b) The deputy can articulate that exigent circumstances exist.

Exigency does not exist solely because of the short time period associated with the natural dissipation of alcohol or controlled or prohibited substances in the person's bloodstream. Exigency can be established by the existence of special facts, such as a lengthy time delay in obtaining a blood sample due to a collision investigation or medical treatment of the person.

Deputies seeking an exigency draw, must articulate why destruction of the evidence is reasonably likely if a warrant is obtained.

Deputies may consider such factors as:

- The Deputy cannot reach a judge after a reasonable amount of time attempting to do so;

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- Medical personnel inform the Deputy that the subject will soon be medically unavailable and/or given a blood transfusion and/or provided drugs;
- Deputies may contact the on-call prosecutor, through Communications, to consult regarding the exigency draw.
- Deputies will contact the on-call prosecutor as soon as possible, unless the nature of exigency does not allow time for the consultation until after the blood draw has been completed.

Deputies must complete the Search Warrant for testing of the blood once the blood is seized.

The exigency exists up to drawing the blood; a warrant is still required for testing the blood.

504.7.2 FORCED BLOOD SAMPLE

If an arrestee indicates by word or action that he/she will physically resist a blood draw, the deputy should request a supervisor to respond.

The responding supervisor should:

- (a) Evaluate whether using force to obtain a blood sample is appropriate under the circumstances.
- (b) Ensure that all attempts to obtain a blood sample through force cease if the person agrees to, and completes a viable form of testing in a timely manner.
- (c) Advise the person of his/her duty to provide a sample (even if this advisement was previously done by another deputy) and attempt to persuade the individual to submit to such a sample without physical resistance. This dialogue should be recorded on audio and/or video when practicable.
- (d) Ensure that the blood sample is taken in a medically approved manner.
- (e) Ensure the forced blood draw is recorded on audio and/or video when practicable.
- (f) Monitor and ensure that the type and level of force applied appears reasonable under the circumstances.
 1. Unless otherwise provided in a warrant, force should generally be limited to handcuffing or similar restraint methods.
 2. In misdemeanor cases, if the arrestee becomes violent or more resistant, no additional force will be used and a refusal should be noted in the report.
 3. In felony cases, force which reasonably appears necessary to overcome the resistance to the blood draw may be permitted.
- (g) Ensure the use of force and methods used to accomplish the collection of the blood sample are documented in the related report.

If a supervisor is unavailable, deputies are expected to use sound judgment and perform as a responding supervisor, as set forth above.

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504.7 RECORDS SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

The approving supervisor will ensure that all case-related records are transmitted according to current records procedures and as required by the prosecuting attorney's office.

504.8 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

The approving supervisor will ensure that all appropriate reports and documents related to administrative license suspensions are reviewed and forwarded to the DOL.

Any deputy who receive notice of required attendance to an administrative license suspension hearing should promptly notify the prosecuting attorney.

A deputy called to testify at an administrative hearing should document the hearing date and the DOL file number in a supplemental report. Specific details of the hearing generally should not be included in the report unless errors, additional evidence or witnesses are identified.

504.9 TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure that deputies participating in the enforcement of DUI laws receive regular training. Training should include, at minimum, current laws on impaired driving, investigative techniques and rules of evidence pertaining to DUI investigations. The Training Manager should confer with the prosecuting attorney's office and update training topics as needed.

Traffic Citations

505.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the responsibility for traffic citations, the procedure for dismissal, correction, and voiding of traffic citations.

505.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Patrol Sergeant shall be responsible for the development and design of all Office traffic citations in compliance with state law and the Judicial Council.

The Records Section shall be responsible for the supply and accounting of all traffic citations issued to employees of this office.

505.3 DISMISSAL OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Employees of this office do not have the authority to dismiss a citation once it has been issued. Only the court has the authority to dismiss a citation that has been issued. Any request from a recipient to dismiss a citation shall be referred to the Patrol Sergeant. Upon a review of the circumstances involving the issuance of the traffic citation, the Patrol Sergeant may request the Patrol Division Chief to recommend dismissal of the traffic citation. If approved, the citation will be forwarded to the appropriate court with a request for dismissal. All recipients of traffic citations whose request for the dismissal of a traffic citation has been denied shall be referred to the appropriate court.

Should a deputy determine during a court proceeding that a traffic citation should be dismissed in the interest of justice or where prosecution is deemed inappropriate the deputy may request the court to dismiss the citation. Upon dismissal of the traffic citation by the court, the deputy shall notify his/her immediate supervisor of the circumstances surrounding the dismissal and shall complete any paperwork as directed or required. The citation dismissal shall then be forwarded to the Patrol Division Chief for review.

505.4 VOIDING TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Voiding a traffic citation may occur when a traffic citation has not been completed or where it is completed, but not issued. All copies of the citation shall be presented to a supervisor to approve the voiding of the citation. The citation and copies shall then be stored in compliance with State audit requirements.

505.5 CORRECTION OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

When a traffic citation is issued and in need of correction, the deputy issuing the citation shall submit the citation and a letter requesting a specific correction to his/her immediate supervisor. The citation and letter shall then be forwarded to the court having jurisdiction and to the recipient of the citation.

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505.6 DISPOSITION OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The court and file copies of all traffic citations issued by members of this office shall be forwarded to the employee's immediate supervisor for review. The citation copies shall then be filed with the Records Section.

Upon separation from employment with this office, all employees issued traffic citations books shall return any unused citations to the Records Section.

505.7 JUVENILE CITATIONS

Completion of traffic citation forms for juveniles may vary slightly from the procedure for adults. The juvenile's age, place of residency, and the type of offense should be considered before issuing the juvenile a citation.

Disabled Vehicles

506.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This office has adopted the following policy on assisting motorists in disabled vehicles within this jurisdiction.

506.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to assist motorists with disabled vehicles until those vehicles are safely removed from the roadway. Members should take appropriate action to mitigate potential problems when a vehicle constitutes a traffic hazard or the safety of the motorist is a concern.

506.3 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITY

When an on-duty deputy observes a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the deputy should make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If that deputy is assigned to a call of higher priority, the dispatcher should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher should then assign another available deputy to respond for assistance as soon as practical.

506.4 EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by office personnel will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of office resources, and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

506.4.1 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Office personnel shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle. The use of push bumpers to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

506.4.2 RELOCATION OF DISABLED VEHICLES

The relocation of disabled vehicles by members of this office by pushing or pulling a vehicle should only occur when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a hazard presented by the disabled vehicle.

506.4.3 RELOCATION OF MOTORIST

The relocation of a motorist with a disabled vehicle should only occur with the person's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to mitigate a potential hazard. The Deputy may stay with the disabled motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.

Unauthorized 24 Hour Vehicle Violations

507.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides procedures for the marking, recording, and storage of unauthorized vehicles parked in violation of 24 hour time limitations.

507.2 MARKING VEHICLES

Vehicles suspected of being subject to removal from a highway, county roadway or county right of way after being left unattended for 24 hours shall be marked and noted on the Skamania County Sheriff's Office Marked Vehicle Card. No case number is required at this time ([RCW 46.55.010](#) (14)).

A notification sticker shall be applied in a visible location and when practicable, a visible chalk mark should be placed on the left rear tire tread at the fender level unless missing tires or other vehicle conditions prevent marking. Any deviation in markings shall be noted on the Marked Vehicle Card ([RCW 46.55.085](#) (1)).

If a marked vehicle has been moved or the markings have been removed during a 24-hour investigation period, the vehicle shall be re-marked for another 24-hour period and a Marked Vehicle Card completed.

507.2.1 VEHICLE STORAGE

A deputy may store any vehicle not removed 24 hours after marking (RCW 46.55.085(3)).

The deputy authorizing the storage of the vehicle shall complete a uniform impound authorization and inventory form. The completed form shall be submitted to the Records Section immediately following the storage of the vehicle ([RCW 46.55.075](#) (2)).

Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture

508.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the authority and procedure for the seizure and forfeiture of vehicles associated with the arrest of subjects for driving under the influence ([RCW 46.61.502](#)) or physical control of a vehicle while under the influence ([RCW 46.61.504](#)).

508.2 SUSPENSION OF WASHINGTON DRIVER LICENSES

[RCW 46.61.5058](#) provides for the forfeiture of any vehicle when the driver of such vehicle has been arrested for driving under the influence or physical control of a vehicle while under the influence, if such person has a prior offense within seven years as defined in [RCW 46.61.5055](#).

508.2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

All procedures and administrative responsibilities associated with this policy are handled by the Patrol Division Chief.

508.3 VEHICLE SEIZURE PROCEDURES

When a deputy arrests a subject for driving under the influence (RCW 46.61.502) or physical control of a vehicle while under the influence (RCW 46.61.504), the deputy may initiate steps to seize the arrestee's vehicle under the following circumstances:

- (a) The arrestee has a prior offense within seven years as defined in RCW 46.61.5055,
- (b) The arrestee must be provided with a office form to notify the arrestee, in writing, that it is unlawful to transfer, sell or encumber in any way the subject's interest in the vehicle in which they were driving or had physical control when the violation occurred, and
- (c) The vehicle is not a rental (RCW 46.61.5058(1)(b)).

The vehicle should be impounded as provided under the authority of RCW 46.55.113(1).

508.3.1 PHYSICAL SEIZURE OF VEHICLE

Physical seizure of the vehicle shall occur only upon the following circumstances:

- (a) Upon conviction of either driving under the influence or physical control of a vehicle while driving under the influence where the person convicted has a prior offense within seven years as defined in RCW 46.61.5055 and the person driving has a financial interest in the vehicle.
- (b) Upon a court order.
- (c) If there is reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a forfeiture proceeding, the deputy may seize the vehicle immediately.

Any vehicle that is seized pursuant to any of the above subsections should immediately be impounded and held pending further court action (RCW 46.61.5058(3)).

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508.4 VEHICLE FORFEITURE

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to initiate forfeiture proceedings on all vehicles seized pursuant to RCW 46.61.5058.

Within fifteen days after vehicle seizure, the legal owner of the seized vehicle shall be notified of the seizure and intended forfeiture. Such notification shall be accomplished in writing to the last known address of the legal owner by certified mail with a return of service requested, or any other form of notification required by court order (RCW 46.61.5058(4)).

508.4.1 FORFEITURE HEARING

Persons notified of seizure have forty-five days to respond. Upon written response, such persons shall have the opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right (RCW 46.61.5058(6)).

- (a) The following procedure shall apply in such cases:
 - 1. Persons requesting a forfeiture hearing must complete and sign an Skamania County Sheriff's Office Forfeiture Request Form;
 - 2. All hearings shall be scheduled and conducted in a timely fashion.
 - 3. The hearing officer(s) shall be designated by the Sheriff.
 - 4. The decision of the hearing officer shall be considered final.
- (b) The owner of the seized vehicle may, through his/her initiation and legal process, choose to remove the hearing to court.
- (c) The vehicle shall be considered forfeited under the following circumstances:
 - 1. If, forty-five days after the seizure, no person has notified the Skamania County Sheriff's Office of a claim of ownership or right to the vehicle.
 - 2. After a hearing officer has determined that the vehicle was lawfully seized and is subject to forfeit.
 - 3. A court of local jurisdiction has determined that the vehicle was lawfully seized and is subject to forfeit.
- (d) In any case where it is determined that the vehicle is not subject to forfeit, it shall be immediately returned to the legal owner.

508.5 PROCEDURES FOLLOWING FORFEITURE

Vehicles that have been lawfully seized and through forfeit the ownership is transferred to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office may be sold or retained for official use provided that all bona fide security interests to the vehicle are first satisfied (RCW 46.61.5058(7)). The following procedure shall apply after vehicles are legally forfeited to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office:

- (a) The Patrol Sergeant or his/her designee shall determine the disposition of all vehicles legally forfeited to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. Such disposition shall be

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determined based on vehicle value, existing security interest, and the needs of the Office.

- (b) The value of the vehicle is the sale price, or if retained, the fair market value of the vehicle at the time of the seizure (RCW 46.61.5058(14)).
- (c) A record of the forfeited vehicle shall be maintained. The record shall indicate the prior owner's information, if known, a description of the vehicle, the disposition of the vehicle, its value at time of seizure and the amount of proceeds realized from disposition of the vehicle (RCW 46.61.5058(8)).
 - 1. Such records shall be maintained for at least seven years (RCW 46.61.5058(9)).
- (d) A copy of the records of all forfeited vehicles shall be filed with the state treasurer each calendar quarter (RCW 46.61.5058(10)).
- (e) By January 31st of each year, ten percent of the net proceeds of vehicles forfeited during the preceding calendar year shall be remitted to the state treasurer (RCW 46.61.5058(12)(13)).

Chapter 6 - Investigation Operations

Investigation and Prosecution

600.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines and requirements pertaining to the handling and disposition of criminal investigations.

600.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to investigate crimes thoroughly and with due diligence, and to evaluate and prepare criminal cases for appropriate clearance or submission to a prosecutor.

600.3 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

600.3.1 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

A deputy responsible for an initial investigation shall complete no less than the following:

- (a) Make a preliminary determination of whether a crime has been committed by completing, at a minimum:
 - 1. An initial statement from any witnesses or complainants.
 - 2. A cursory examination for evidence.
- (b) If information indicates a crime has occurred, the deputy shall:
 - (a) Preserve the scene and any evidence as required to complete the initial and follow-up investigation.
 - (b) Determine if additional investigative resources (e.g., detectives, investigators or scene processing) are necessary and request assistance as required.
 - (c) If assistance is warranted, or if the incident is not routine, notify a supervisor or the Shift Sergeant.
 - (d) Make reasonable attempts to locate, identify and interview all available victims, complainants, witnesses and suspects.
 - (e) Collect any evidence.
 - (f) Take any appropriate law enforcement action.
 - (g) Complete and submit the appropriate reports and documentation.
- (c) If the preliminary determination is that no crime occurred, determine what other action may be necessary, what other resources may be available, and advise the informant or complainant of this information.

600.3.2 ARRESTS BY PRIVATE PERSONS

Private persons may make a common law arrest for crimes constituting a breach of the peace or may detain a person under the authority of [RCW 9A.16.020](#) (felonies, retail theft, etc.) Any

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deputy presented with a private person wishing to make an arrest must determine whether there is probable cause to believe that such an arrest would be lawful.

- (a) Should any deputy determine that there is no probable cause to believe that a private person's arrest is lawful, the deputy should take no action to further detain or restrain the individual beyond that which reasonably appears necessary to investigate the matter, determine the lawfulness of the arrest and protect the public safety.
 - 1. Any deputy who determines that a private person's arrest appears to be unlawful should promptly release the arrested individual. The deputy must include the basis of such a determination in a related report.
 - 2. Absent probable cause to support a private person's arrest or other lawful grounds to support an independent arrest by the deputy, the deputy should advise the parties that no arrest will be made and that the circumstances will be documented in a related report.
- (b) Whenever a deputy determines that there is probable cause to believe that a private person's arrest is lawful, the deputy shall take a written statement from the person who has made the arrest. In addition, the deputy may exercise one of the following options:
 - 1. Take the individual into physical custody for booking.
 - 2. Release the individual subsequent to the issuance of a citation for the individual to appear in the appropriate court.

600.4 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION REQUIREMENTS

Suspects who are in custody and subjected to an interrogation shall be given his or her *Miranda* warnings, unless an exception applies. See the Temporary Custody of Juveniles Policy **312** for juvenile requirements.

600.4.1 AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any custodial interrogation of a juvenile or an adult suspected of a felony conducted at a place of detention (as defined by [RCW 10.122.020](#)) shall be electronically recorded (audio and video). This includes any required warnings, advice of the rights of the individual being questioned, and waiver of rights. Consent to the electronic recording is not required, but the deputy shall inform the suspect that they are being recorded ([RCW 10.122.030](#)).

A custodial interrogation at any place other than a place of detention shall be recorded by audio means at a minimum (RCW 10.122.030).

Regardless of where the interrogation occurs, every reasonable effort should be made to secure functional recording equipment to accomplish such recordings.

Consideration should also be given to recording a custodial interrogation, or any investigative interview, for any other offense when it is reasonable to believe it would be appropriate and beneficial to the investigation and is otherwise allowed by law.

No recording of a custodial interrogation should be destroyed or altered without written authorization from the prosecuting attorney and the Detective Unit supervisor. Copies of recorded

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interrogations or interviews may be made in the same or a different format as the original recording, provided the copies are true, accurate, and complete and are made only for authorized and legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Recordings should not take the place of a thorough report and investigative interviews. Written statements from suspects should continue to be obtained when applicable.

600.4.2 DOCUMENTATION

If a custodial interrogation at a place of detention occurs without electronically recording it in its entirety, the deputy shall prepare a written or electronic report explaining the reason and summarize the custodial interrogation process and the individual's statements. This report shall be completed as soon as practicable after completing the interrogation ([RCW 10.122.030](#)).

If the custodial interrogation occurs outside a place of detention, the deputy shall complete a report as soon as practicable explaining the decision and summarize the custodial interrogation process and the individual's statements (RCW 10.122.030).

600.4.3 EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the recording requirements apply in the following circumstances:

- (a) When spontaneous utterances or statements are made outside the course of a custodial interrogation, or a statement made in response to a question asked routinely during the processing of the arrest of an individual (RCW 10.122.030).
- (b) Exigent circumstances exist that prevent a deputy from electronically recording an interrogation. In those cases, the deputy shall record electronically an explanation of the exigent circumstances before conducting the interrogation, if feasible, or as soon as practicable after the interrogation is completed ([RCW 10.122.040](#)).
- (c) The individual indicates a refusal to participate or further participate in the electronic recording. When feasible, the agreement of the individual to participate in the interrogation without recording or further participate should be recorded electronically ([RCW 10.122.060](#)).
- (d) The deputy conducting an interrogation has no reason to believe the individual being interrogated committed an act that requires electronic recording of the interrogation ([RCW 10.122.080](#)).
 - 1. If during the interrogation, the individual being interviewed reveals facts and circumstances that give the deputy conducting the interview a reason to believe that an act was committed that requires an electronic recording, the continued interrogation shall be recorded.
- (e) The deputy or the deputy's supervisor reasonably believes the electronic recording would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or jeopardize the safety of the deputy, the individual being interrogated, or another person ([RCW 10.122.090](#)).
 - 1. If feasible and consistent with the safety of a confidential informant, an explanation of the basis for the belief that electronic recording would disclose the informant's identity must be electronically recorded at the time of the

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interrogation or if not feasible as soon as practicable after the interrogation is completed.

- (f) The equipment malfunctions ([RCW 10.122.100](#)) .

600.4.4 RECORDING PROCEDURES

The Sheriff should designate a member of the Office to be responsible for electronic recordings. Responsibilities should include but are not limited to (RCW 10.122.150)

- (a) Developing procedures for the collection and review of recordings or absence of recordings by supervisors.
- (b) Assigning a specific supervisor responsibility to promote accountability, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Adequate staffing.
 - 2. Training.
 - 3. Material resources.
- (c) Developing procedures for preservation of chain of custody of recordings.
- (d) Developing a process for explaining noncompliance with procedures.

600.5 DISCONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATIONS

The investigation of a criminal case or efforts to seek prosecution should only be discontinued if one of the following applies:

- (a) All reasonable investigative efforts have been exhausted, no reasonable belief that the person who committed the crime can be identified, and the incident has been documented appropriately.
- (b) The perpetrator of a misdemeanor has been identified and a warning is the most appropriate disposition.
 - (a) In these cases, the investigator shall document that the person was warned and why prosecution was not sought.
 - (b) Warnings should not be given for felony offenses or other offenses identified in this policy or by law that require an arrest or submission of a case to a prosecutor.
- (c) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor but no charges have been filed. Further investigation is not reasonable nor has the prosecutor requested further investigation.
- (d) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor, charges have been filed, and further investigation is not reasonable, warranted or requested, and there is no need to take the suspect into custody.
- (e) Suspects have been arrested, there are no other suspects, and further investigation is either not warranted or requested.

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- (f) Investigation has proven that a crime was not committed (see the Sexual Assault Investigations Policy for special considerations in these cases).

The Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault Investigations and Adult Abuse policies may also require an arrest or submittal of a case to a prosecutor.

600.6 COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE

The collection, preservation, transportation and storage of computers, cell phones and other digital devices may require specialized handling to preserve the value of the related evidence. If it is anticipated that computers or similar equipment will be seized, deputies should request that computer forensic examiners assist with seizing computers and related evidence. If a forensic examiner is unavailable, deputies should take reasonable steps to prepare for such seizure and use the resources that are available.

600.7 INVESTIGATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SOURCES

Use of social media and any other internet source to access information for the purpose of criminal investigation shall comply with applicable laws and policies regarding privacy, civil rights and civil liberties. Information gathered via the internet should only be accessed by members while on-duty and for purposes related to the mission of this office. If a member encounters information relevant to a criminal investigation while off-duty or while using his/her own equipment, the member should note the dates, times and locations of the information and report the discovery to his/her supervisor as soon as practicable. The member, or others who have been assigned to do so, should attempt to replicate the finding when on-duty and using office equipment.

Information obtained via the internet should not be archived or stored in any manner other than office-established record keeping systems (see the Records Maintenance and Release and Criminal Organizations policies).

600.7.1 ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Information that can be accessed from any office computer, without the need of an account, password, email address, alias or other identifier (unrestricted websites), may be accessed and used for legitimate investigative purposes without supervisory approval.

Accessing information from any internet source that requires the use or creation of an account, password, email address, alias or other identifier, or the use of nongovernment IP addresses, requires supervisor approval prior to access. The supervisor will review the justification for accessing the information and consult with legal counsel as necessary to identify any policy or legal restrictions. Any such access and the supervisor approval shall be documented in the related investigative report.

Accessing information that requires the use of a third party's account or online identifier requires supervisor approval and the consent of the third party. The consent must be voluntary and shall be documented in the related investigative report.

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Information gathered from any internet source should be evaluated for its validity, authenticity, accuracy and reliability. Corroborative evidence should be sought and documented in the related investigative report.

Any information collected in furtherance of an investigation through an internet source should be documented in the related report. Documentation should include the source of information and the dates and times that the information was gathered.

600.7.2 INTERCEPTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Intercepting social media communications in real time may be subject to federal and state wiretap laws. Deputies should seek legal counsel before any such interception.

600.8 MODIFICATION OF CHARGES FILED

Members are not authorized to recommend to the prosecutor or to any other official of the court that charges on a pending case be amended or dismissed without the authorization of a Division Chief or the Sheriff. Any authorized request to modify the charges or to recommend dismissal of charges shall be made to the prosecutor.

Asset Forfeiture

601.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the authority and procedure for the seizure, forfeiture and liquidation of property associated with designated offenses.

601.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Fiscal agent - The person designated by the Sheriff to be responsible for securing and maintaining seized assets and distributing any proceeds realized from any forfeiture proceedings. This includes any time the Skamania County Sheriff's Office seizes property for forfeiture or when the Skamania County Sheriff's Office is acting as the fiscal agent pursuant to a multi-agency agreement.

Forfeiture - The process by which legal ownership of an asset is transferred to a government or other authority.

Forfeiture reviewer - The office member assigned by the Sheriff who is responsible for reviewing all forfeiture cases and for acting as the liaison between the Office and the assigned attorney.

Property subject to forfeiture - Generally includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Firearms that were carried, possessed or sold illegally ([RCW 9.41.098](#)).
- (b) Devices, profits, proceeds, associated equipment and conveyances related to illegal gambling ([RCW 9.46.231](#)).
- (c) Interests, proceeds, etc. related to organized crime ([RCW 9A.82.060](#)), criminal profiteering ([RCW 9A.82.080](#)), human trafficking ([RCW 9A.40.100](#)), commercial sexual abuse of a minor ([RCW 9.68A.100](#)) or promoting prostitution ([RCW 9A.88.070](#)) ([RCW 9A.82.100](#)).
- (d) Proceeds traceable to or derived from money laundering (RCW 9A.83.020; RCW 9A.83.030).
- (e) Property acquired or maintained in relation to commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9.68A.100), promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9.68A.101) or promoting prostitution in the first degree (RCW 9A.88.070), and conveyances used to facilitate these offenses (RCW 9A.88.150).
- (f) Personal property, money, a vehicle, etc. that was used to commit a felony or was acquired through the commission of a felony not covered under another forfeiture statute (RCW 10.105.010).
- (g) Personal property, money, a vehicle, etc. that was acquired through the commission of a crime involving theft, trafficking or unlawful possession of commercial metal property, or facilitating such crimes (RCW 19.290.230).

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- (h) Conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles or vessels, used for the violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and proceeds from these violations (money, real property, etc.) ([RCW 69.50.505](#)).
- (i) Boats, vehicles, gear, etc. used for poaching/wildlife crimes ([RCW 77.15.070](#)).

Seizure - The act of law enforcement officials taking property, cash or assets that have been used in connection with or acquired by specified illegal activities.

601.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes that appropriately applied forfeiture laws are helpful to enforce the law, deter crime and reduce the economic incentive of crime. However, the potential for revenue should never compromise the effective investigation of criminal offenses, officer safety or any person's due process rights.

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that all members, including those assigned to internal or external law enforcement task force operations, shall comply with all state and federal laws pertaining to forfeiture.

601.3 ASSET SEIZURE

Property may be seized for forfeiture as provided in this policy.

601.3.1 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SEIZURE

The following may be seized upon review and approval of a supervisor and in coordination with the forfeiture reviewer:

- (a) Real or personal property subject to forfeiture identified in a court order authorizing seizure.
- (b) Property subject to forfeiture without a court order when the property is lawfully seized incident to an arrest, the service of a search warrant, or the service of an administrative inspection warrant.
- (c) Property subject to forfeiture can also be seized without a court order when:
 - 1. There is probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used for illegal gambling ([RCW 9.46.231](#)).
 - 2. There is probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used for the commercial sexual abuse of a minor ([RCW 9.68A.100](#) ; [RCW 9.68A.101](#)) or promoting prostitution in the first degree ([RCW 9A.88.070](#) ; [RCW 9A.88.150](#)).
 - 3. There is probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in the commission of any felony ([RCW 10.105.010](#)). See also separate statutes regarding seizures for felonies involving commercial metal, "bootlegging," criminal profiteering, or money laundering ([RCW 19.290.230](#) ; [RCW 66.32.020](#) ; [RCW 9A.82.100](#) ; [RCW 9A.83.030](#)).
 - 4. There is probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act ([RCW 69.50.505](#)).

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5. There is probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used for poaching/wildlife crimes ([RCW 77.15.070](#)).

A large amount of money standing alone is insufficient to establish the probable cause required to make a seizure.

Whenever practicable, a court order for seizure prior to making a seizure is the preferred method.

601.3.2 PROPERTY NOT SUBJECT TO SEIZURE

The following property should not be seized for forfeiture:

- (a) Cash and property that does not meet the forfeiture counsel's current minimum forfeiture thresholds should not be seized.
- (b) Property from an "innocent owner," or a person who had no knowledge of the offense or who did not consent to the property's use.
- (c) No vehicle or other conveyance based on a misdemeanor involving cannabis ([RCW 69.50.505](#)).
- (d) Vehicles/conveyances that would be subject to forfeiture if more than 10 days have elapsed since the owner's arrest and no court order has been issued ([RCW 9.46.231](#) ; [RCW 9A.88.150](#) ; [RCW 69.50.505](#)).

601.4 PROCESSING SEIZED PROPERTY FOR FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS

When property or cash subject to this policy is seized, the deputy making the seizure should ensure compliance with the following:

- (a) Complete applicable seizure forms and present the appropriate copy to the person from whom the property is seized. If cash or property is seized from more than one person, a separate copy must be provided to each person, specifying the items seized. When property is seized and no one claims an interest in the property, the deputy must leave the copy in the place where the property was found, if it is reasonable to do so.
- (b) Complete and submit a report and original seizure forms within 24 hours of the seizure, if practicable.
- (c) Forward the original seizure forms and related reports to the forfeiture reviewer within two days of seizure.

The deputy will book seized property as evidence with the notation in the comment section of the property form, "Seized Subject to Forfeiture." Property seized subject to forfeiture should be booked on a separate property form. No other evidence from the case should be booked on this form.

Photographs should be taken of items seized, particularly cash, jewelry and other valuable items.

Deputies who suspect property may be subject to seizure but are not able to seize the property (e.g., the property is located elsewhere, the whereabouts of the property is unknown, it is real

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estate, bank accounts, non-tangible assets) should document and forward the information in the appropriate report to the forfeiture reviewer.

601.5 MAINTAINING SEIZED PROPERTY

The Evidence Room Supervisor is responsible for ensuring compliance with the following:

- (a) All property received for forfeiture is reasonably secured and properly stored to prevent waste and preserve its condition.
- (b) All property received for forfeiture is checked to determine if the property has been stolen.
- (c) All property received for forfeiture is retained in the same manner as evidence until forfeiture is finalized or the property is returned to the claimant or the person with an ownership interest.
- (d) Property received for forfeiture is not used unless the forfeiture action has been completed.

601.6 FORFEITURE REVIEWER

The Sheriff will appoint a forfeiture reviewer. Prior to assuming duties, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the forfeiture reviewer should attend a course approved by the Office on asset forfeiture.

The responsibilities of the forfeiture reviewer include:

- (a) Remaining familiar with forfeiture laws, particularly those cited in this policy and the forfeiture policies of the forfeiture counsel.
- (b) Serving as the liaison between the Office and the forfeiture counsel and ensuring prompt legal review of all seizures.
- (c) Making reasonable efforts to obtain annual training that includes best practices in pursuing, seizing and tracking forfeitures.
- (d) Reviewing each seizure-related case and deciding whether the seizure is more appropriately made under state or federal seizure laws.
- (e) Ensuring that responsibilities, including the designation of a fiscal agent, are clearly established whenever multiple agencies are cooperating in a forfeiture case.
- (f) Ensuring that seizure forms are available and appropriate for office use. These should include notice forms, a receipt form and a checklist that provides relevant guidance to deputies. The forms should be available in languages appropriate for the region and should contain spaces for:
 - 1. Names and contact information for all relevant persons and law enforcement officers involved.
 - 2. Information as to how ownership or other property interests may have been determined (e.g., verbal claims of ownership, titles, public records).

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3. A space for the signature of the person from whom cash or property is being seized.
 4. A tear-off portion or copy, which should be given to the person from whom cash or property is being seized, that includes the legal authority for the seizure, information regarding the process to contest the seizure and a detailed description of the items seized.
- (g) Ensuring that deputies who may be involved in asset forfeiture receive training in the proper use of the seizure forms and the forfeiture process. The training should be developed in consultation with the appropriate legal counsel and may be accomplished through traditional classroom education, electronic media, Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs) or Special Orders. The training should cover this policy and address any relevant statutory changes and court decisions.
- (h) Reviewing each asset forfeiture case to ensure that:
1. Written documentation of the seizure and the items seized is in the case file.
 2. Independent legal review of the circumstances and propriety of the seizure is made in a timely manner.
 3. Notice of seizure has been given in a timely manner to those who hold an interest in the seized property.
 - (a) Generally, 15 days' notice. (Gambling [RCW 9.46.231](#) ; Money laundering [RCW 9A.83.030](#) ; Child prostitution [RCW 9A.88.150](#) ; Felonies [RCW 10.105.010](#) ; Commercial metal [RCW 19.290.230](#) ; Controlled substances [RCW 69.50.505](#) ; Fish and wildlife enforcement [RCW 77.15.070](#)).
 - (b) Generally, 10 days' notice for conveyances. (Gambling [RCW 9.46.231](#); Child prostitution [RCW 9A.88.150](#); Controlled substances [RCW 69.50.505](#)).
 4. Property is promptly released to those entitled to its return.
 5. All changes to forfeiture status are forwarded to any supervisor who initiates a forfeiture case.
 6. Any cash received is deposited with the fiscal agent.
 7. Assistance with the resolution of ownership claims and the release of property to those entitled is provided.
 8. Current minimum forfeiture thresholds are communicated appropriately to deputies.
 9. This policy and any related policies are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect current federal and state statutes and case law.
- (i) Ensuring that a written plan is available that enables the Sheriff to address any extended absence of the forfeiture reviewer, thereby ensuring that contact information for other law enforcement officers and attorneys who may assist in these matters is available.

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- (j) Ensuring that the process of selling or adding forfeited property to the office's regular inventory is in accordance with all applicable laws and consistent with the office's use and disposition of similar property.
- (k) Upon completion of any forfeiture process, ensuring that no property is retained by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office unless the Sheriff authorizes in writing the retention of the property for official use.
- (l) Addressing any landlord claims for reimbursement through forfeited assets or damage to property ([RCW 9.46.231](#) ; [RCW 69.50.505](#)).
- (m) Compensating victims of commercial metal crimes within 120 days ([RCW 19.290.230](#)).

Forfeiture proceeds should be maintained in a separate fund or account subject to appropriate accounting control, with regular reviews or audits of all deposits and expenditures.

Forfeiture reporting and expenditures should be completed in the manner prescribed by the law and County financial directives.

601.7 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

No member of this office may use property that has been seized for forfeiture until the forfeiture action has been completed and the Sheriff has given written authorization to retain the property for official use. No office member involved in the decision to seize property should be involved in any decision regarding the disposition of the property.

Informants

602.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the use of informants.

602.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Informant - A person who covertly interacts with other individuals or suspects at the direction of, request of, or by agreement with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement purposes. This also includes a person agreeing to supply information to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office for a benefit (e.g., a quid pro quo in the form of a reduced criminal penalty, money).

602.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office recognizes the value of informants to law enforcement efforts and will strive to protect the integrity of the informant process. It is the policy of this office that all funds related to informant payments will be routinely audited and that payments to informants will be made according to the criteria outlined in this policy.

602.3 USE OF INFORMANTS

602.3.1 INITIAL APPROVAL

Before using an individual as an informant, a deputy must receive approval from his/her supervisor. The deputy shall compile sufficient information through a background investigation and experience with the informant in order to determine the suitability of the individual, including age, maturity and risk of physical harm, as well as any indicators of his/her reliability and credibility.

Members of this office should not guarantee absolute safety or confidentiality to an informant.

602.3.2 JUVENILE INFORMANTS

The use of informants under the age of 13 is prohibited.

In all cases, a juvenile 13 years of age or older may only be used as an informant with the written consent of each of the following:

- (a) The juvenile's parents or legal guardians
- (b) The juvenile's attorney, if any
- (c) The court in which the juvenile's case is being handled, if applicable
- (d) The Sheriff or the authorized designee

602.3.3 INFORMANT AGREEMENTS

All informants are required to sign and abide by the provisions of the designated office informant agreement. The deputy using the informant shall discuss each of the provisions of the agreement with the informant.

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Details of the agreement are to be approved in writing by a supervisor before being finalized with the informant.

602.4 INFORMANT INTEGRITY

To maintain the integrity of the informant process, the following must be adhered to:

- (a) The identity of an informant acting in a confidential capacity shall not be withheld from the Sheriff, Division Chief, Investigations Unit supervisor or their authorized designees.
 - 1. Identities of informants acting in a confidential capacity shall otherwise be kept confidential.
- (b) Criminal activity by informants shall not be condoned.
- (c) Informants shall be told they are not acting as sheriff's deputies, employees or agents of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, and that they shall not represent themselves as such.
- (d) The relationship between office members and informants shall always be ethical and professional.
 - 1. Members shall not become intimately involved with an informant.
 - 2. Social contact shall be avoided unless it is necessary to conduct an official investigation, and only with prior approval of the Investigations Unit supervisor.
 - 3. Members shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities or engage in any private business transaction with an informant.
- (e) Deputies shall not meet with informants in a private place unless accompanied by at least one additional deputy or with prior approval of the Investigations Unit supervisor.
 - 1. Deputies may meet informants alone in an occupied public place, such as a restaurant.
- (f) When contacting informants for the purpose of making payments, deputies shall arrange for the presence of another deputy.
- (g) In all instances when office funds are paid to informants, a voucher shall be completed in advance, itemizing the expenses.
- (h) Since the decision rests with the appropriate prosecutor, deputies shall not promise that the informant will receive any form of leniency or immunity from criminal prosecution.

602.4.1 UNSUITABLE INFORMANTS

The suitability of any informant should be considered before engaging him/her in any way in a covert or other investigative process. Members who become aware that an informant may be unsuitable will notify the supervisor, who will initiate a review to determine suitability. Until a determination has been made by a supervisor, the informant should not be used by any member. The supervisor shall determine whether the informant should be used by the Office and, if so, what conditions will be placed on his/her participation or any information the informant provides. The

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supervisor shall document the decision and conditions in file notes and mark the file “unsuitable” when appropriate.

Considerations for determining whether an informant is unsuitable include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) The informant has provided untruthful or unreliable information in the past.
- (b) The informant behaves in a way that may endanger the safety of a deputy.
- (c) The informant reveals to suspects the identity of a deputy or the existence of an investigation.
- (d) The informant appears to be using his/her affiliation with this office to further criminal objectives.
- (e) The informant creates officer-safety issues by providing information to multiple law enforcement agencies simultaneously, without prior notification and approval of each agency.
- (f) The informant engages in any other behavior that could jeopardize the safety of deputies or the integrity of a criminal investigation.
- (g) The informant commits criminal acts subsequent to entering into an informant agreement.

602.5 INFORMANT FILES

Informant files shall be utilized as a source of background information about the informant, to enable review and evaluation of information provided by the informant, and to minimize incidents that could be used to question the integrity of office members or the reliability of the informant.

Informant files shall be maintained in a secure area within the Investigations Unit. The Investigations Unit supervisor or the authorized designee shall be responsible for maintaining informant files. Access to the informant files shall be restricted to the Sheriff, Division Chief, Investigations Unit supervisor or their authorized designees.

The Investigation Division Chief should arrange for an audit using a representative sample of randomly selected informant files on a periodic basis, but no less than one time per year. If the Investigations Unit supervisor is replaced, the files will be audited before the new supervisor takes over management of the files. The purpose of the audit is to ensure compliance with file content and updating provisions of this policy. The audit should be conducted by a supervisor who does not have normal access to the informant files.

602.5.1 FILE SYSTEM PROCEDURE

A separate file shall be maintained on each informant and shall be coded with an assigned informant control number. An informant history that includes the following information shall be prepared for each file:

- (a) Name and aliases
- (b) Date of birth

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- (c) Physical description: sex, race, height, weight, hair color, eye color, scars, tattoos or other distinguishing features
- (d) Photograph
- (e) Current home address and telephone numbers
- (f) Current employers, positions, addresses and telephone numbers
- (g) Vehicles owned and registration information
- (h) Places frequented
- (i) Briefs of information provided by the informant and his/her subsequent reliability
 - 1. If an informant is determined to be unsuitable, the informant's file is to be marked "unsuitable" and notations included detailing the issues that caused this classification.
- (j) Name of the deputy initiating use of the informant
- (k) Signed informant agreement
- (l) Update on active or inactive status of informant

602.6 INFORMANT PAYMENTS

No informant will be told in advance or given an exact amount or percentage for his/her service. The amount of funds to be paid to any informant will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- The extent of the informant's personal involvement in the case
- The significance, value or effect on crime
- The value of assets seized
- The quantity of the drugs or other contraband seized
- The informant's previous criminal activity
- The level of risk taken by the informant

The Investigations Unit supervisor will discuss the above factors with the Patrol Division Chief and recommend the type and level of payment subject to approval by the Sheriff.

602.6.1 PAYMENT PROCESS

Approved payments to an informant should be in cash using the following process:

- (a) Payments of \$500 and under may be paid in cash from a Investigations Unit buy/expense fund.
 - 1. The Investigations Unit supervisor shall sign the voucher for cash payouts from the buy/expense fund.
- (b) Payments exceeding \$500 shall be made by issuance of a check, payable to the deputy who will be delivering the payment.
 - 1. The check shall list the case numbers related to and supporting the payment.

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2. A written statement of the informant's involvement in the case shall be placed in the informant's file.
 3. The statement shall be signed by the informant verifying the statement as a true summary of his/her actions in the case.
 4. Authorization signatures from the Sheriff and the BOCC are required for disbursement of the funds.
- (c) To complete the payment process for any amount, the deputy delivering the payment shall complete a cash transfer form.
1. The cash transfer form shall include the following:
 - (a) Date
 - (b) Payment amount
 - (c) Skamania County Sheriff's Office case number
 - (d) A statement that the informant is receiving funds in payment for information voluntarily rendered.
 2. The cash transfer form shall be signed by the informant.
 3. The cash transfer form will be kept in the informant's file.

602.6.2 REPORTING OF PAYMENTS

Each informant receiving a cash payment shall be advised of his/her responsibility to report the cash to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as income. If funds distributed exceed \$600 in any reporting year, the informant should be provided IRS Form 1099 (26 CFR 1.6041-1). If such documentation or reporting may reveal the identity of the informant and by doing so jeopardize any investigation, the safety of deputies or the safety of the informant (26 CFR 1.6041-3), then IRS Form 1099 should not be issued.

In such cases, the informant shall be provided a letter identifying the amount he/she must report on a tax return as "other income" and shall be required to provide a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the letter. The completed acknowledgement form and a copy of the letter shall be retained in the informant's file.

602.6.3 AUDIT OF PAYMENTS

The Investigations Unit supervisor or the authorized designee shall be responsible for compliance with any audit requirements associated with grant provisions and applicable state and federal law.

At least once every six months, the Sheriff or the authorized designee should conduct an audit of all informant funds for the purpose of accountability and security of the funds. The funds and related documents (e.g., buy/expense fund records, cash transfer forms, invoices, receipts and logs) will assist with the audit process.

Eyewitness Identification

603.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets forth guidelines to be used when members of this office employ eyewitness identification techniques.

603.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to the policy include:

Eyewitness identification process - Any field identification, live lineup or photographic identification.

Field identification - A live presentation of a single individual to a witness following the commission of a criminal offense for the purpose of identifying or eliminating the person as the suspect.

Live lineup - A live presentation of individuals to a witness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual as the suspect.

Photographic lineup - Presentation of photographs to a witness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual as the suspect.

603.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will strive to use eyewitness identification techniques, when appropriate, to enhance the investigative process and will emphasize identifying persons responsible for crime and exonerating the innocent. It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to avoid any type of suggestiveness **before**, **during**, or **after** the identification process is being conducted with a potential witness related to identifying a suspect.

603.3 INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Members should make a reasonable effort to arrange for an interpreter before proceeding with eyewitness identification if communication with a witness is impeded due to language or hearing barriers.

Before the interpreter is permitted to discuss any matter with the witness, the investigating member should explain the identification process to the interpreter. Once it is determined that the interpreter comprehends the process and can explain it to the witness, the eyewitness identification may proceed as provided for within this policy.

603.4 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND FORM

The Detective Unit supervisor shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of an eyewitness identification process for use by members when they are conducting eyewitness identifications.

The process should include appropriate forms or reports that provide:

Eyewitness Identification

- (a) The date, time and location of the eyewitness identification procedure.
- (b) The name and identifying information of the witness.
- (c) The name of the person administering the identification procedure.
- (d) If applicable, the names of all of the individuals present during the identification procedure.
- (e) An instruction to the witness that it is as important to exclude innocent persons as it is to identify a perpetrator.
- (f) An instruction to the witness that the perpetrator may or may not be among those presented and that the witness is not obligated to make an identification.
- (g) If the identification process is a photographic or live lineup, an instruction to the witness that the perpetrator may not appear exactly as he/she did on the date of the incident.
- (h) An instruction to the witness that the investigation will continue regardless of whether an identification is made by the witness.
- (i) A signature line where the witness acknowledges that he/she understands the identification procedures and instructions.
- (j) A statement from the witness in the witness's own words describing how certain he/she is of the identification or non-identification. This statement should be taken at the time of the identification procedure.

603.5 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION

Members are cautioned not to, in any way influence a witness as to whether any subject or photo presented in a lineup is in any way connected to the case. Members should avoid mentioning that:

- The individual was apprehended near the crime scene.
- The evidence points to the individual as the suspect.
- Other witnesses have identified or failed to identify the individual as the suspect.

In order to avoid undue influence, witnesses should view suspects or a lineup individually and outside the presence of other witnesses. Witnesses should be instructed to avoid discussing details of the incident or of the identification process with other witnesses.

Whenever feasible, the eyewitness identification procedure should be audio and/or video recorded and the recording should be retained according to current evidence procedures.

603.6 PHOTOGRAPHIC AND LIVE LINEUP CONSIDERATIONS

When practicable, the member presenting the lineup should not be involved in the investigation of the case or know the identity of the suspect.

In no case should the member presenting a lineup to a witness know which photograph or person in the lineup is being viewed by the witness. Techniques to achieve this include randomly numbering photographs, shuffling folders or using a computer program to order the persons in the lineup.

Eyewitness Identification

Individuals in the lineup should reasonably match the description of the perpetrator provided by the witness and should bear similar characteristics to avoid causing any person to unreasonably stand out. In cases involving multiple suspects, a separate lineup should be conducted for each suspect. The suspects should be placed in a different order within each lineup.

The member presenting the lineup to a witness should do so sequentially (i.e., show the witness one person at a time) and not simultaneously. The witness should view all persons in the lineup.

A live lineup should only be used before criminal proceedings have been initiated against the suspect. If there is any question as to whether any criminal proceedings have begun, the investigating member should contact the appropriate prosecuting attorney before proceeding.

603.7 FIELD IDENTIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Field identifications, also known as field elimination show-ups or one-on-one identifications, may be helpful in certain cases, where exigent circumstances make it impracticable to conduct a photo or live lineup identifications. A field elimination show-up or one-on-one identification should not be used when independent probable cause exists to arrest a suspect. In such cases a live or photo lineup is the preferred course of action if eyewitness identification is contemplated.

When initiating a field identification, the member should observe the following guidelines:

- (a) Obtain a complete description of the suspect from the witness.
- (b) Assess whether a witness should be included in a field identification process by considering:
 - 1. The length of time the witness observed the suspect.
 - 2. The distance between the witness and the suspect.
 - 3. Whether the witness could view the suspect's face.
 - 4. The quality of the lighting when the suspect was observed by the witness.
 - 5. Whether there were distracting noises or activity during the observation.
 - 6. Any other circumstances affecting the witness's opportunity to observe the suspect.
 - 7. The length of time that has elapsed since the witness observed the suspect.
- (c) If safe and practicable, the person who is the subject of the show-up should not be handcuffed or in a patrol vehicle.
- (d) When feasible, members should bring the witness to the location of the subject of the show-up, rather than bring the subject of the show-up to the witness.
- (e) The person who is the subject of the show-up should not be shown to the same witness more than once.
- (f) In cases involving multiple suspects, witnesses should only be permitted to view the subjects of the show-up one at a time.

Eyewitness Identification

- (g) The person who is the subject of the show-up should not be required to put on clothing worn by the suspect, to speak words uttered by the suspect or to perform other actions mimicking those of the suspect.
- (h) If a witness positively identifies a subject of the show-up as the suspect, members should not conduct any further field identifications with other witnesses for that suspect. In such instances members should document the contact information for any additional witnesses for follow up, if necessary.

603.8 DOCUMENTATION

A thorough description of the eyewitness process and the results of any eyewitness identification should be documented in the case report.

If a photographic lineup is utilized, a copy of the photographic lineup presented to the witness should be included in the case report. In addition, the order in which the photographs were presented to the witness should be documented in the case report.

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) "DRONE" Operations

605.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of an unmanned aerial system (UAS) "drone" and for the storage, retrieval and dissemination of images and data captured by the UAS "drone."

605.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) "Drone" - An unmanned aircraft of any type that is capable of sustaining directed flight, whether preprogrammed or remotely controlled (commonly referred to as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)), and all of the supporting or attached systems designed for gathering information through imaging, recording or any other means.

605.2 POLICY

Unmanned aerial systems may be utilized to enhance the office's mission of protecting lives and property when other means and resources are not available or are less effective. Any use of a UAS will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

605.3 PRIVACY

The use of the UAS potentially involves privacy considerations. Absent a warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to FAA altitude regulations and shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, enclosure). Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Reasonable precautions can include, for example, deactivating or turning imaging devices away from such areas or persons during UAS operations.

605.4 PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Sheriff will appoint a program coordinator who will be responsible for the management of the UAS program. The program coordinator will ensure that policies and procedures conform to current laws, regulations and best practices and will have the following additional responsibilities:

- Coordinating the FAA Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) application process and ensuring that the COA is current.
- Ensuring that all authorized operators and required observers have completed all required FAA and office-approved training in the operation, applicable laws, policies and procedures regarding use of the UAS.

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- Developing uniform protocol for submission and evaluation of requests to deploy a UAS, including urgent requests made during ongoing or emerging incidents. Deployment of a UAS shall require written authorization of the Sheriff or the authorized designee, depending on the type of mission.
- Developing protocol for conducting criminal investigations involving a UAS, including documentation of time spent monitoring a subject.
- Implementing a system for public notification of UAS deployment.
- Developing an operational protocol governing the deployment and operation of a UAS including, but not limited to, safety oversight, use of visual observers, establishment of lost link procedures and secure communication with air traffic control facilities.
- Developing a protocol for fully documenting all missions.
- Developing a UAS inspection, maintenance and record-keeping protocol to ensure continuing airworthiness of a UAS, up to and including its overhaul or life limits.
- Developing protocols to ensure that all data intended to be used as evidence are accessed, maintained, stored and retrieved in a manner that ensures its integrity as evidence, including strict adherence to chain of custody requirements. Electronic trails, including encryption, authenticity certificates and date and time stamping, shall be used as appropriate to preserve individual rights and to ensure the authenticity and maintenance of a secure evidentiary chain of custody.
- Developing protocols that ensure retention and purge periods are maintained in accordance with established records retention schedules.
- Facilitating law enforcement access to images and data captured by the UAS.
- Recommending program enhancements, particularly regarding safety and information security.
- Ensuring that established protocols are followed by monitoring and providing periodic reports on the program to the Sheriff.

605.5 USE OF UAS

Only authorized operators who have completed the required training shall be permitted to operate the UAS.

Use of vision enhancement technology (e.g., thermal and other imaging equipment not generally available to the public) is permissible in viewing areas only where there is no protectable privacy interest or when in compliance with a search warrant or court order. In all other instances, legal counsel should be consulted.

Under 14 CFR, part 107, when operating a drone/UAS 30 minutes after official sunset, anti-collision lights must be in use. When operating at night, a flashing strobe identifier visible for three miles must be activated and in use.

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) "DRONE" Operations

605.6 PROHIBITED USE

The UAS video surveillance equipment shall not be used:

- To conduct random surveillance activities.
- To target a person based solely on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.
- To harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.
- To conduct personal business of any type.

The UAS shall not be weaponized.

605.7 RETENTION OF UAS DATA

Data collected by the UAS shall be retained as provided in the established records retention schedule.

Sexual Assault Investigations

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the investigation of sexual assaults. These guidelines will address some of the unique aspects of such cases and the effects that these crimes have on the victims.

Mandatory notification requirements are addressed in the Child Abuse (Policy **315**) and Adult Abuse (**313**) policies.

606.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Forcible compulsion - means physical force which overcomes resistance, or a threat, express or implied, that places a person in fear of death or physical injury to herself or himself or another person, or in fear that she or he or another person will be kidnapped.

Sexual assault - Any crime or attempted crime of a sexual nature, to include, but not limited to, offenses defined in [RCW 9A.44.010](#) et seq. and [RCW 9A.64.020](#) .

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) - A multidisciplinary team generally comprised of advocates; law enforcement officers; forensic medical examiners, including sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFEs) or sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) if possible; forensic laboratory personnel; and prosecutors. The team is designed to coordinate a broad response to sexual assault victims.

Sexual intercourse - (a) has its ordinary meaning and occurs upon any penetration, however slight, and (b) Also means any penetration of the vagina or anus however slight, by an object, when committed on one person by another, whether such persons are of the same or opposite sex, except when such penetration is accomplished for medically recognized treatment or diagnostic purposes, and (c) Also means any act of sexual contact between persons involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another whether such persons are of the same or opposite sex.

606.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office that its members, when responding to reports of sexual assaults, will strive to minimize the trauma experienced by the victims, and will aggressively investigate sexual assaults, pursue expeditious apprehension and conviction of perpetrators, and protect the safety of the victims and the community.

606.3 QUALIFIED INVESTIGATORS

Qualified investigators should be available for assignment of sexual assault investigations. These investigators should:

- (a) Have specialized training in, and be familiar with, interview techniques and the medical and legal issues that are specific to sexual assault investigations.

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- (b) Conduct follow-up interviews and investigation.
- (c) Present appropriate cases of alleged sexual assault to the prosecutor for review.
- (d) Coordinate with other enforcement agencies, social service agencies and medical personnel as needed.
- (e) Provide referrals to therapy services, victim advocates and support for the victim.
- (f) Participate in or coordinate with the SART or other multidisciplinary investigative teams as applicable.

606.4 REPORTING

In all reported or suspected cases of sexual assault, a report should be written and assigned for follow-up investigation. This includes incidents in which the allegations appear unfounded or unsubstantiated.

606.5 VICTIM INTERVIEWS

The primary considerations in sexual assault investigations, which begin with the initial call to Dispatch, should be the health and safety of the victim, the preservation of evidence, and preliminary interviews to determine if a crime has been committed and to attempt to identify the suspect.

Whenever possible, a member of the SART should be included in the initial victim interviews.

An in-depth follow-up interview should not be conducted until after the medical and forensic examinations are completed and the personal needs of the victim have been met (e.g., change of clothes, bathing). The follow-up interview may be delayed to the following day based upon the circumstances. Whenever practicable, the follow-up interview should be conducted by a qualified investigator.

No opinion of whether the case is unfounded should be included in a report.

Victims should be apprised of applicable victim's rights provisions, as outlined in the Victim Witness Assistance Policy **318**.

606.5.1 VICTIM PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVOCATE

A victim may choose a personal representative to accompany him/her to the hospital or other health care facility and to any proceeding concerning the alleged sexual assault, including interviews. A personal representative includes a friend, relative, attorney, or employee or volunteer from a community sexual assault program or specialized treatment service provider ([RCW 70.125.030](#) ; [RCW 70.125.060](#)).

The victim may also choose to consult with a sexual assault survivor's advocate throughout the investigatory process of the case. The assigned investigator should ensure the advocate has access to the victim during the process ([RCW 70.125.110](#)).

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606.5.2 POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF VICTIM

Victims of alleged sex offenses shall not be asked or required to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of the offense. The refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling device shall not by itself prevent the investigation, charging or prosecution of the offense ([RCW 10.58.038](#) ; 34 USC § 10451).

606.6 COLLECTION AND TESTING OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Whenever possible, a SART member should be involved in the collection of forensic evidence from the victim.

When the facts of the case indicate that collection of biological evidence is warranted, it should be collected regardless of how much time has elapsed since the reported assault.

If a drug-facilitated sexual assault is suspected, urine and blood samples should be collected from the victim as soon as practicable.

Subject to requirements set forth in this policy, biological evidence from all sexual assault cases, including cases where the suspect is known by the victim, should be submitted for testing. Victims who choose not to assist with an investigation, do not desire that the matter be investigated or wish to remain anonymous may still consent to the collection of evidence under their control. In these circumstances, the evidence should be collected and stored appropriately.

606.6.1 COLLECTION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Members investigating sexual assaults or handling related evidence are required to do the following:

- (a) Sexual assault examination kits shall be submitted to an approved lab within 30 days with a request for testing prioritization when either of the following conditions are met ([RCW 5.70.040](#)):
 - 1. A related report or complaint is received by the Office alleging a sexual assault or other crime has occurred and the victim has consented to the submission.
 - 2. The victim is an unemancipated person 17 years or age or younger.
- (b) Facilitate the collection of an unreported sexual assault kit from a collecting entity when this office has jurisdiction to investigate any related criminal allegations ([RCW 5.70.030](#)).

Additional guidance regarding evidence retention and destruction is found in the Property and Evidence Policy **802**.

606.6.2 STATEWIDE SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT TRACKING SYSTEM

Members investigating a sexual assault should ensure that biological evidence is tracked appropriately in the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system ([RCW 35.21.195](#) ; [RCW 36.28.200](#)).

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606.6.3 DNA TEST RESULTS

Members investigating sexual assault cases should notify victims of any DNA test results as soon as reasonably practicable.

A SART member should be consulted regarding the best way to deliver biological testing results to a victim so as to minimize victim trauma, especially in cases where there has been a significant delay in getting biological testing results (e.g., delays in testing the evidence or delayed DNA databank hits). Members should make reasonable efforts to assist the victim by providing available information on local assistance programs and organizations as provided in the Victim Witness Assistance Policy.

Members investigating sexual assaults cases should ensure that DNA results are entered into databases when appropriate and as soon as practicable.

606.7 DISPOSITION OF CASES

If the assigned investigator has reason to believe the case is without merit, the case may be classified as unfounded only upon review and approval of the Detective Unit supervisor.

Classification of a sexual assault case as unfounded requires the Detective Unit supervisor to determine that the facts have significant irregularities with reported information and that the incident could not have happened as it was reported. When a victim has recanted his/her original statement, there must be corroborating evidence that the allegations were false or baseless (i.e., no crime occurred) before the case should be determined as unfounded.

606.8 CASE REVIEW

The Detective Unit supervisor should ensure cases are reviewed on a periodic basis, at least annually, using an identified group that is independent of the investigation process. The reviews should include an analysis of:

- Case dispositions.
- Decisions to collect biological evidence.
- Submissions of biological evidence for lab testing.

The SART and/or victim advocates should be considered for involvement in this audit. Summary reports on these reviews should be forwarded through the chain of command to the Sheriff.

606.8.1 RETENTION

The Detective Unit supervisor should ensure evidence, investigatory reports, and records related to violent or sex offenses are appropriately marked for retention under [RCW 5.70.010](#) .

606.9 RELEASING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

In cases where the perpetrator is not known to the victim, and especially if there are multiple crimes where more than one appear to be related, consideration should be given to releasing information to the public whenever there is a reasonable likelihood that doing so may result in developing helpful investigative leads. The Detective Unit supervisor should weigh the risk of alerting the

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suspect to the investigation with the need to protect the victim and the public, and to prevent more crimes.

606.10 CASE STATUS NOTIFICATION

The investigator assigned to the case should keep the victim informed of the status of the investigation in a timely manner. The victim should be informed of the expected and appropriate time frames for receiving a response to inquiries made regarding the status of the investigation ([RCW 5.70.005](#); RCW 70.125.110).

The investigator should provide the victim with contact information for the assigned prosecutor, if available, to receive updates related to the prosecution of the case (RCW 70.125.110).

606.11 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, periodic training should be provided to:

- (a) Members who are first responders. Training should include:
 - 1. Initial response to sexual assaults.
 - 2. Legal issues.
 - 3. Victim advocacy.
 - 4. Victim's response to trauma.
- (b) Qualified investigators, who should receive advanced training on additional topics. Advanced training should include:
 - (a) Interviewing sexual assault victims.
 - (b) SART.
 - (c) Medical and legal aspects of sexual assault investigations.
 - (d) Serial crimes investigations.
 - (e) Use of community and other federal and state investigative resources, such as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP).
 - (f) Techniques for communicating with victims to minimize trauma.
 - (g) The course provided by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission on investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases developed pursuant to [RCW 43.101.270](#) .
 - (h) Proper protocol for the use of the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system (RCW 35.21.195; RCW 36.28.200).

Warrant Service

607.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the planning and serving of arrest and search warrants by members of this office. It is understood that this policy cannot address every variable or circumstance that can arise in the service of a search or arrest warrant, as these tasks can involve rapidly evolving and unique circumstances.

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy **608**, which has additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants.

This policy is not intended to address the service of search warrants on locations or property already secured or routine field warrant arrests by patrol deputies.

607.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to balance the safety needs of the public, the safety of office members, privacy interests and other relevant factors when making decisions related to the service of search and arrest warrants.

607.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

The operations director (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy) shall review all risk assessment forms with the involved supervisor to determine the risk level of the warrant service.

The operations director will also have the responsibility to coordinate service of those warrants that are categorized as high risk. Deconfliction, risk assessment, operational planning, briefing and debriefing should follow guidelines in the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy.

607.4 SEARCH WARRANTS

The deputy will prepare the affidavit and search warrant, consulting with the applicable prosecuting attorney as needed. He/she will also complete the risk assessment form and submit it, along with the warrant affidavit, to the appropriate supervisor and the operations director for review and classification of risk (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).

607.5 ARREST WARRANTS

If a deputy reasonably believes that serving an arrest warrant may pose a higher risk than commonly faced on a daily basis, the deputy should complete the risk assessment form and submit it to the appropriate supervisor and the operations director for review and classification of risk (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).

If the warrant is classified as high risk, service will be coordinated by the operations director. If the warrant is not classified as high risk, the supervisor should weigh the risk of entry into a residence to make an arrest against other alternatives, such as arresting the person outside the residence where circumstances may pose a lower risk.

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607.6 WARRANT PREPARATION

A deputy who prepares a warrant should ensure the documentation in support of the warrant contains as applicable:

- (a) Probable cause to support the search or arrest, including relevant dates and times to demonstrate timeliness and facts to support any request for nighttime execution.
- (b) A clear explanation of the affiant's training, experience and relevant education.
- (c) Adequately supported opinions, when relevant, that are not left to unsubstantiated conclusions.
- (d) A nexus between the place to be searched and the persons or items central to the investigation. The facts supporting this nexus should be clear and current. For example, the affidavit shall explain why there is probable cause to believe that a particular person is currently residing at a particular location or that the items sought are present at a particular location.
- (e) Full disclosure of known or suspected residents at the involved location and any indication of separate living spaces at the involved location. For example, it should be disclosed that several people may be renting bedrooms at a single location, even if the exact location of the rooms is not known.
- (f) A specific description of the location to be searched, including photographs of the location, if reasonably available.
- (g) A sufficient description of the items to be seized.
- (h) Full disclosure of any known exculpatory information relevant to the warrant application (refer to the Brady Material Disclosure Policy).

607.7 HIGH-RISK WARRANT SERVICE

The operations director or the authorized designee shall coordinate the service of warrants that are categorized as high risk and shall have sole authority in determining the manner in which the warrant will be served, including the number of deputies deployed.

The member responsible for directing the service should ensure the following as applicable:

- (a) When practicable and when doing so does not cause unreasonable risk, video or photographic documentation is made of the condition of the location prior to execution of a search warrant. The images should include the surrounding area and persons present.
- (b) The warrant service is video-recorded when practicable and reasonable to do so. The warrant service may be audio-recorded when announcing to everyone present that the conversation is going to be recorded and said announcement is recorded except if allowed by the warrant (RCW 9.73.030).
- (c) Evidence is handled and collected only by those members who are designated to do so. All other members involved in the service of the warrant should alert one of the designated members to the presence of potential evidence and not touch or disturb the items.

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- (d) Reasonable efforts are made during the search to maintain or restore the condition of the location.
- (e) Persons who are detained as part of the warrant service are handled appropriately under the circumstances.
- (f) Reasonable care provisions are made for children and dependent adults (see the Child and Dependent Adult Safety Policy).
- (g) A list is made of all items seized and a copy provided to the person in charge of the premises if present or otherwise left in a conspicuous place.
- (h) A copy of the search warrant is left at the location.
- (i) The condition of the property is documented with video recording or photographs after the search.

607.8 DETENTIONS DURING WARRANT SERVICE

Deputies must be sensitive to the safety risks of all persons involved with the service of a warrant. Depending on circumstances and facts present, it may be appropriate to control movements of any or all persons present at a warrant service, including those who may not be the subject of a warrant or suspected in the case. However, deputies must be mindful that only reasonable force may be used and weapons should be displayed no longer than the deputy reasonably believes is necessary (see the Use of Force Policy **300**).

As soon as it can be determined that an individual is not subject to the scope of a warrant and that no further reasonable suspicion or safety concerns exist to justify further detention, the person should be promptly released.

Deputies should, when and to the extent reasonable, accommodate the privacy and personal needs of people who have been detained.

607.9 ACTIONS AFTER WARRANT SERVICE

The supervisor shall ensure that all affidavits, warrants, receipts and returns, regardless of any associated cases, are filed with the issuing judge or magistrate as soon as reasonably possible, but in any event no later than any date specified on the warrant.

607.10 OUTSIDE AGENCIES AND CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL WARRANTS

The operations director will ensure that cooperative efforts with other agencies in the service of warrants conform to existing mutual aid agreements or other memorandums of understanding and will work cooperatively to mitigate risks including, but not limited to, the following:

- Identity of team members
- Roles and responsibilities
- Familiarity with equipment
- Rules of engagement

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- Asset forfeiture procedures

Any outside agency requesting assistance in the service of a warrant within this jurisdiction should be referred to the operations director. The director should review and confirm the warrant, including the warrant location, and should discuss the service with the appropriate supervisor from the other agency. The director should ensure that members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office are utilized appropriately. Any concerns regarding the requested use of Skamania County Sheriff's Office members should be brought to the attention of the Sheriff or the authorized designee. The actual service of the warrant will remain the responsibility of the agency requesting assistance.

If the operations director is unavailable, the Shift Sergeant should assume this role.

If deputies intend to serve a warrant outside Skamania County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, the operations director should provide reasonable advance notice to the applicable agency, request assistance as needed and work cooperatively on operational planning and the mitigation of risks detailed in this policy.

Deputies will remain subject to the policies of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office when assisting outside agencies or serving a warrant outside Skamania County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction.

607.11 MEDIA ACCESS

No advance information regarding warrant service operations shall be released without the approval of the Sheriff. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the Media Relations Policy **323**.

607.12 TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure deputies receive periodic training on this policy and associated topics, such as legal issues, warrant preparation, warrant service and reporting requirements.

Operations Planning and Deconfliction

608.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for planning, deconfliction and execution of high-risk operations.

Additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants is provided in the Warrant Service Policy **608**.

608.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

High-risk operations - Operations, including service of search and arrest warrants and sting operations, that are likely to present higher risks than are commonly faced by deputies on a daily basis, including suspected fortified locations, reasonable risk of violence or confrontation with multiple persons, or reason to suspect that persons anticipate the operation.

608.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to properly plan and carry out high-risk operations, including participation in a regional deconfliction system, in order to provide coordination, enhance the safety of members and the public, decrease the risk of compromising investigations and prevent duplicating efforts.

608.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

The Sheriff will designate a member of this office to be the operations director.

The operations director will develop and maintain a risk assessment form to assess, plan and coordinate operations. This form should provide a process to identify high-risk operations.

The operations director will review risk assessment forms with involved supervisors to determine whether a particular incident qualifies as a high-risk operation. The director will also have the responsibility for coordinating operations that are categorized as high risk.

608.4 RISK ASSESSMENT

608.4.1 RISK ASSESSMENT FORM PREPARATION

Deputies assigned as operational leads for any operation that may qualify as a high-risk operation shall complete a risk assessment form.

When preparing the form, the deputy should query all relevant and reasonably available intelligence resources for information about the subject of investigation, others who may be present and the involved location. These sources may include regional intelligence and criminal justice databases, target deconfliction systems, firearm records, commercial databases and property records. Where appropriate, the deputy should also submit information to these resources.

The deputy should gather available information that includes, but is not limited to:

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- (a) Photographs, including aerial photographs, if available, of the involved location, neighboring yards and obstacles.
- (b) Maps of the location.
- (c) Diagrams of any property and the interior of any buildings that are involved.
- (d) Historical information about the subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession or use, known mental illness, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history).
- (e) Historical information about others who may be present at the location (e.g., other criminals, innocent third parties, dependent adults, children, animals).
- (f) Obstacles associated with the location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance measures, number and type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces, availability of keys/door combinations).
- (g) Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service).
- (h) Other available options that may minimize the risk to deputies and others (e.g., making an off-site arrest or detention of the subject of investigation).

608.4.2 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Deputies will present the risk assessment form and other relevant documents (such as copies of search warrants and affidavits and arrest warrants) to their supervisor and the operations director.

The supervisor and operations director shall confer and determine the level of risk. Supervisors should take reasonable actions if there is a change in circumstances that elevates the risks associated with the operation.

608.4.3 HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS

If the operations director, after consultation with the involved supervisor, determines that the operation is high risk, the operations director should:

- (a) Determine what resources will be needed at the location, and contact and/or place on standby any of the following appropriate and available resources:
 - 1. Southwest Washington Regional SWAT (SWAT)
 - 2. Additional personnel
 - 3. Outside agency assistance
 - 4. Special equipment
 - 5. Medical personnel
 - 6. Persons trained in negotiation
 - 7. Additional surveillance

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8. Canines
 9. Evidence Room or analytical personnel to assist with cataloguing seizures
 10. Forensic specialists
 11. Specialized mapping for larger or complex locations
- (b) Contact the appropriate office members or other agencies as warranted to begin preparation.
 - (c) Ensure that all legal documents such as search warrants are complete and have any modifications reasonably necessary to support the operation.
 - (d) Coordinate the actual operation.

608.5 DECONFLICTION

Deconfliction systems are designed to identify persons and locations associated with investigations or law enforcement operations and alert participating agencies when others are planning or conducting operations in close proximity or time or are investigating the same individuals, groups or locations.

The deputy who is the operations lead shall ensure the subject of investigation and operations information have been entered in an applicable deconfliction system to determine if there is reported conflicting activity. This should occur as early in the process as practicable, but no later than two hours prior to the commencement of the operation. The deputy should also enter relevant updated information when it is received.

If any conflict is discovered, the supervisor will contact the involved jurisdiction and resolve the potential conflict before proceeding.

608.6 OPERATIONS PLAN

The operations director should ensure that a written operations plan is developed for all high-risk operations. Plans should also be considered for other operations that would benefit from having a formal plan.

The plan should address such issues as:

- (a) Operation goals, objectives and strategies.
- (b) Operation location and people:
 1. The subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession/use, known mental illness issues, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history)
 2. The location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance cameras and/or lookouts, number/type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces,

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- availability of keys/door combinations), including aerial photos, if available, and maps of neighboring yards and obstacles, diagrams and other visual aids
- 3. Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service)
- 4. Identification of other people who may be present in or around the operation, such as other criminal suspects, innocent third parties and children
- (c) Information from the risk assessment form by attaching a completed copy in the operational plan.
 - 1. The volume or complexity of the information may indicate that the plan includes a synopsis of the information contained on the risk assessment form to ensure clarity and highlighting of critical information.
- (d) Participants and their roles.
 - 1. An adequate number of uniformed deputies should be included in the operation team to provide reasonable notice of a legitimate law enforcement operation.
 - 2. How all participants will be identified as law enforcement.
- (e) Whether deconfliction submissions are current and all involved individuals, groups and locations have been deconflicted to the extent reasonably practicable.
- (f) Identification of all communications channels and call-signs.
- (g) Use of force issues.
- (h) Contingencies for handling medical emergencies (e.g., services available at the location, closest hospital, closest trauma center).
- (i) Plans for detaining people who are not under arrest.
- (j) Contingencies for handling children, dependent adults, animals and other people who might be at the location in accordance with the Child Abuse, Adult Abuse, Child and Dependent Adult Safety and Animal Control Procedures policies.
- (k) Communications plan
- (l) Responsibilities for writing, collecting, reviewing and approving reports.

608.6.1 OPERATIONS PLAN RETENTION

Since the operations plan contains intelligence information and descriptions of law enforcement tactics, it shall not be filed with the report. The operations plan shall be stored separately and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

608.7 OPERATIONS BRIEFING

A briefing should be held prior to the commencement of any high-risk operation to allow all participants to understand the operation, see and identify each other, identify roles and responsibilities and ask questions or seek clarification as needed. Anyone who is not present at the briefing should not respond to the operation location without specific supervisory approval.

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- (a) The briefing should include a verbal review of plan elements, using visual aids, to enhance the participants' understanding of the operations plan.
- (b) All participants should be provided a copy of the operations plan and search warrant, if applicable. Participating personnel should be directed to read the search warrant and initial a copy that is retained with the operation plan. Any items to be seized should be identified at the briefing.
- (c) The operations director shall ensure that all participants are visually identifiable as law enforcement officers.
 - 1. Exceptions may be made by the operations director for deputies who are conducting surveillance or working under cover. However, those members exempt from visual identification should be able to transition to a visible law enforcement indicator at the time of enforcement actions, such as entries or arrests, if necessary.
- (d) The briefing should include details of the communications plan.
 - (a) It is the responsibility of the operations director to ensure that Dispatch is notified of the time and location of the operation, and to provide a copy of the operation plan prior to deputies arriving at the location.
 - (b) If the radio channel needs to be monitored by Dispatch, the dispatcher assigned to monitor the operation should attend the briefing, if practicable, but at a minimum should receive a copy of the operation plan.
 - (c) The briefing should include a communications check to ensure that all participants are able to communicate with the available equipment on the designated radio channel.

608.8 SWAT PARTICIPATION

If the operations director determines that SWAT participation is appropriate, the director and the Regional SWAT supervisor shall work together to develop a written plan. The SWAT supervisor shall assume operational control until all persons at the scene are appropriately detained and it is safe to begin a search. When this occurs, the SWAT supervisor shall transfer control of the scene to the handling supervisor. This transfer should be communicated to the deputies present.

608.9 MEDIA ACCESS

No advance information regarding planned operations shall be released without the approval of the Sheriff. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

608.10 OPERATIONS DEBRIEFING

High-risk operations should be debriefed as soon as reasonably practicable. The debriefing should include as many participants as possible. This debrief may be separate from any Regional SWAT debriefing.

Chapter 7 - Equipment

Office-Owned and Personal Property

700.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Skamania County Sheriff's Office employees are expected to properly care for office property assigned or entrusted to them. Employees may also suffer occasional loss or damage to personal or office property while performing their assigned duties. Certain procedures are required depending on the loss and ownership of the item.

700.2 CARE OF OFFICE PROPERTY

Employees shall be responsible for the safekeeping, serviceable condition, proper care, use and replacement of office property assigned or entrusted to them. An employee's intentional or negligent abuse or misuse of office property may lead to discipline including, but not limited to the cost of repair or replacement.

- (a) Employees shall promptly report through their chain of command, any loss, damage to, or unserviceable condition of any office-issued property or equipment assigned for their use.
- (b) The use of damaged or unserviceable office property should be discontinued as soon as practical and replaced with comparable Office property as soon as available and following notice to a supervisor.
- (c) Except when otherwise directed by competent authority or required by exigent circumstances, office property shall only be used by those to whom it was assigned. Use should be limited to official purposes and in the capacity for which it was designed.
- (d) Office property shall not be thrown away, sold, traded, donated, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of without proper authority.
- (e) In the event that any Office property becomes damaged or unserviceable, no employee shall attempt to repair the property without prior approval of a supervisor.

700.3 FILING CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Claims for reimbursement for damage or loss of personal property must be made on the proper form. This form is submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. The supervisor may require a separate written report of the loss or damage.

The supervisor shall direct a memo to the appropriate Division Chief, which shall include the results of his/her investigation and whether the employee followed proper procedures. The supervisor's report shall address whether reasonable care was taken to prevent the loss or damage.

Upon review by staff and a finding that no misconduct or negligence was involved, repair or replacement may be recommended by the Sheriff who will then forward the claim to the Finance Department.

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The Office will not replace or repair luxurious or overly expensive items (jewelry, exotic equipment, etc.) that are not reasonably required as a part of work.

700.3.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit.

In some instances the employee's immediate supervisor may request a written report be completed detailing the circumstances resulting in the loss or damage of Office property.

700.4 LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PROPERTY OF ANOTHER

Deputies and other employees intentionally or unintentionally may cause damage to the real or personal property of another while performing their duties. Any employee who damages or causes to be damaged any real or personal property of another while performing any law enforcement functions, regardless of jurisdiction, shall report it as provided below.

- (a) A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit.
- (b) In some instances the employee's immediate supervisor may request a written report be completed detailing the circumstances resulting in the loss or damage to the real or personal property of another while performing their duties.

700.4.1 DAMAGE BY PERSON OF ANOTHER AGENCY

If employees of another jurisdiction cause damage to real or personal property belonging to the County, it shall be the responsibility of the employee present or the employee responsible for the property to make a verbal report to his/her immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. The employee shall submit a written report before going off duty or as otherwise directed by the supervisor.

These written reports, accompanied by the supervisor's written report, shall promptly be forwarded to the appropriate Division Chief.

Personal Communication Devices

701.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of mobile telephones and communication devices, whether issued or funded by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office or personally owned, while on-duty or when used for authorized work-related purposes.

This policy generically refers to all such devices as Personal Communication Devices (PCDs) but is intended to include all mobile telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) wireless capable tablets and similar wireless two-way communications and/or portable internet access devices. PCD use includes, but is not limited to, placing and receiving calls, text messaging, blogging and microblogging, emailing, using video or camera features, playing games and accessing sites or services on the internet.

701.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office allows Deputies to utilize office-issued or funded PCDs and to possess personally owned PCDs in the workplace, subject to certain limitations. Any PCD used while on-duty, or used off-duty in any manner reasonably related to the business of the Office, will be subject to monitoring and inspection consistent with the standards set forth in this policy.

The inappropriate use of a PCD while on-duty may impair officer safety. Additionally, Deputies are advised and cautioned that the use of a personally owned PCD either on-duty or after duty hours for business-related purposes may subject the Deputy and the Deputy's PCD records to civil or criminal discovery or disclosure under applicable public records laws.

Deputies who have questions regarding the application of this policy or the guidelines contained herein are encouraged to seek clarification from supervisory staff.

701.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Deputies forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to any communication accessed, transmitted, received or reviewed on any PCD issued or funded by the Office and shall have no expectation of privacy in their location should the device be equipped with location detection capabilities (see the Information Technology Use Policy {321} for additional guidance).

701.4 OFFICE-ISSUED PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE (PCD)

Depending on a Deputy's current assignment and the needs of the position, the Office may, at its discretion, issue or fund a PCD for the Deputy's use to facilitate on-duty performance. Office-issued or funded PCDs may not be used for personal business either on- or off-duty unless authorized by the Sheriff or the authorized designee. Such devices and the associated telephone number, if any, shall remain the sole property of the Office and shall be subject to inspection or monitoring (including all related records and content) at any time without notice and without cause.

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Personal Communication Devices

701.5 PERSONALLY OWNED PCD

Deputies may carry a personally owned PCD while on-duty, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

- (a) Permission to carry a personally owned PCD may be revoked if it is used contrary to provisions of this policy.
- (b) The Office accepts no responsibility for loss of or damage to a personally owned PCD.
- (c) The PCD and any associated services shall be purchased, used and maintained solely at the Deputy's expense.
- (d) The device should not be used for work-related purposes except in exigent circumstances (e.g., unavailability of radio communications). Deputies will have a reduced expectation of privacy when using a personally owned PCD in the workplace and have no expectation of privacy with regard to any office business-related communication.
- (e) The device shall not be utilized to record or disclose any business-related information, including photographs, video or the recording or transmittal of any information or material obtained or made accessible as a result of employment with the Office, without the express authorization of the Sheriff or the authorized designee.
- (f) Use of a personally owned PCD while at work or for work-related business constitutes consent for the Office to access the PCD to inspect and copy data to meet the needs of the Office, which may include litigation, public records retention and release obligations and internal investigations. If the PCD is carried on-duty, Deputies will provide the Office with the telephone number of the device.
- (g) All work-related documents, emails, photographs, recordings or other public records created or received on a Deputy's personally owned PCD should be transferred to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office and deleted from the Deputy's PCD as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than the end of the Deputy's shift.

Except with prior express authorization from their supervisors, Deputies are not obligated or required to carry, access, monitor or respond to electronic communications using a personally owned PCD while off-duty. If a Deputy is in an authorized status that allows for appropriate compensation consistent with policy or existing collective bargaining agreements, or if the Deputy has prior express authorization from his/her supervisor, the Deputy may engage in office business-related communications. Should Deputies engage in such approved off-duty communications or work, Deputies entitled to compensation shall promptly document the time worked and communicate the information to their supervisors to ensure appropriate compensation. Deputies who independently document off-duty office-related business activities in any manner shall promptly provide the Office with a copy of such records to ensure accurate record keeping.

701.6 USE OF PCD

The following protocols shall apply to all PCDs that are carried while on-duty or used to conduct office business:

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- (a) A PCD shall not be carried in a manner that allows it to be visible while in uniform, unless it is in an approved carrier.
- (b) All PCDs in the workplace shall be set to silent or vibrate mode.
- (c) A PCD may not be used to conduct personal business while on-duty, except for brief personal communications (e.g., informing family of extended hours). Deputies shall endeavor to limit their use of PCDs to authorized break times, unless an emergency exists.
- (d) Deputies may use a PCD to communicate with other personnel in situations where the use of the radio is either impracticable or not feasible. PCDs should not be used as a substitute for, as a way to avoid or in lieu of regular radio communications.
- (e) Deputies are prohibited from taking pictures, making audio or video recordings or making copies of any such picture or recording media unless it is directly related to official office business. Disclosure of any such information to any third party through any means, without the express authorization of the Sheriff or the authorized designee, may result in discipline.
- (f) Deputies will not access social networking sites for any purpose that is not official office business.
- (g) Using PCDs to harass, threaten, coerce or otherwise engage in inappropriate conduct with any third party is prohibited. Any Deputy having knowledge of such conduct shall promptly notify a supervisor.

701.7 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring that members under their command are provided appropriate training on the use of PCDs consistent with this policy.
- (b) Monitoring, to the extent practicable, PCD use in the workplace and take prompt corrective action if a member is observed or reported to be improperly using a PCD.
 - (a) An investigation into improper conduct should be promptly initiated when circumstances warrant.
 - (b) Before conducting any administrative search of a Deputy's personally owned device, supervisors should consult with the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

701.8 USE WHILE DRIVING

The use of a PCD while driving can adversely affect safety, cause unnecessary distractions and present a negative image to the public. Deputies operating emergency vehicles should restrict the use of these devices to matters of an urgent nature and should, where practicable, stop the vehicle at an appropriate location to use the PCD.

Except in an emergency, Deputies who are operating vehicles other than authorized emergency vehicles shall not use a PCD while driving unless the device is specifically designed and configured

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to allow hands-free use and the use complies with [RCW 46.61.672](#) . Hands-free use should be restricted to business-related calls or calls of an urgent nature.

701.9 OFFICIAL USE

Deputies are reminded that PCDs are not secure devices and conversations may be intercepted or overheard. Caution should be exercised while utilizing PCDs to ensure that sensitive information is not inadvertently transmitted. As soon as reasonably possible, members shall conduct sensitive or private communications on a land-based or other office communications network.

Vehicle Maintenance

702.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Employees are responsible for assisting in maintaining Office vehicles so that they are properly equipped, properly maintained, properly refueled and present a clean appearance.

702.2 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

All Department vehicles must be maintained to ensure useful life, safe operation, and performance. Maintenance schedules are according to each vehicle type. When practicable, each Deputy is responsible to ensure that vehicles are made available for service within a reasonable mileage tolerance of (0 + 500 miles).

702.3 DEFECTIVE VEHICLES

When a office vehicle becomes inoperative or in need of repair that affects the safety of the vehicle, that vehicle shall be removed from service for repair. Proper documentation shall be promptly completed by the employee who first becomes aware of the defective condition, describing the correction needed. The paperwork shall be promptly forwarded to vehicle maintenance for repair.

702.3.1 DAMAGE OR POOR PERFORMANCE

Vehicles that may have been damaged or perform poorly shall be removed from service for inspections and repairs as soon as practicable.

702.3.2 SEVERE USE

Vehicles operated under severe-use conditions, which include operations for which the vehicle is not designed or that exceed the manufacturer's parameters, should be removed from service and subjected to a safety inspection as soon as practicable. Such conditions may include rough roadway or off-road driving, hard or extended braking, pursuits or prolonged high-speed operation.

702.3.3 REMOVAL OF WEAPONS

All firearms, weapons and control devices shall be removed from a vehicle and properly secured in the office armory prior to the vehicle being released for maintenance, service or repair.

702.4 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Certain items shall be maintained in all office vehicles for emergency purposes and to perform routine duties. Each Deputy shall routinely check the assigned vehicle's emergency equipment as defined under [RCW 46.37.190](#) , (1) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive marking, be equipped with at least one lamp capable of displaying a red light visible from at least five hundred feet in normal sunlight and a siren capable of giving an audible signal.

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Vehicle Maintenance

702.4.1 PATROL VEHICLES

Deputies shall inspect the patrol vehicle at the beginning of the shift and ensure that the following equipment, at a minimum, is present in the vehicle:

- Electronic Flares
- 1 Roll barricade tape
- 1 First aid kit ([WAC 296-304-06015](#))
- 1 Fingerprint kit
- 1 Fire extinguisher ([WAC 296-24-59215](#))
- 1 Warning STOP/SLOW paddle sign
- Personal Protective Equipment per the Communicable Diseases

702.4.2 UNMARKED VEHICLES

An employee driving unmarked office vehicles shall ensure that the minimum following equipment is present in the vehicle:

- Road flares
- 1 Roll barricade tape
- 1 First aid kit
- 1 Fingerprint kit
- 1 Fire extinguisher
- Personal Protective Equipment per the Communicable Diseases

702.5 VEHICLE REFUELING

Absent emergency conditions or supervisor approval, deputies driving patrol vehicles shall not place a vehicle in service that has less than one-quarter tank of fuel. Whenever practicable, vehicles should be fully fueled when placed into service and refueled before the level falls below one-quarter tank.

702.6 WASHING OF VEHICLES

All units shall be kept clean when practicable and weather conditions permitting, shall be washed as necessary to enhance their appearance.

Employees using a vehicle shall remove any trash or debris at the end of their shift. Confidential material should be placed in a designated receptacle provided for the shredding of this matter.

Vehicle Maintenance

702.7 NON-SWORN EMPLOYEE USE

Non-sworn employees using marked vehicles shall ensure all weapons are removed from vehicles before going into service. Non-sworn employees shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.

Vehicle Usage

703.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a system of accountability to ensure Skamania County Sheriff's Office vehicles are used appropriately. This policy provides guidelines for on- and off-duty use of Sheriff's Office vehicles and shall not be construed to create or imply any contractual obligation by the County of Skamania to provide assigned take-home vehicles.

703.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office provides vehicles for office-related business and may assign patrol and unmarked vehicles based on a determination of operational efficiency, economic impact to the Office, requirements for tactical deployments and other considerations.

703.3 DEFINITIONS

Vehicle - For the purposes of this section, the term vehicle shall apply to any car, truck, van, motorcycle, or motorized vehicle owned, leased, rented or otherwise assigned to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

703.4 USE OF VEHICLES

County-owned vehicles shall only be used for official use and, when approved, for commuting to allow members to respond to office-related business outside their regular work hours. Deputies shall not operate a County-owned vehicle at any time when impaired by drugs and/or alcohol. Any Deputy operating a vehicle equipped with a two-way communications radio, MDC and/or a GPS device shall ensure the devices are on and set to an audible volume whenever the vehicle is in operation.

703.4.1 SHIFT ASSIGNED VEHICLES

Deputies who use a fleet vehicle as part of their work assignment shall ensure that the vehicle is properly checked and maintained according to current procedures, prior to taking it into service. Deputies shall be responsible for inspecting the interior and exterior of any assigned vehicle before taking the vehicle into service and at the conclusion of their shift. Any previously unreported damage, mechanical problems, unauthorized contents or other problems with the vehicle shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented as appropriate.

703.4.2 UNSCHEDULED USE OF VEHICLES

Deputies utilizing a County-owned vehicle for any purpose other than their regularly assigned duties shall first notify the Shift Supervisor. When practicable Deputies shall notify Dispatch when they are in service for unscheduled details (e.g. S.A.R. mission.) This section does not apply to members permanently assigned an individual vehicle (e.g., command staff, detectives), who regularly use the vehicle on an unscheduled basis as part of their normal assignment.

Vehicle Usage

703.4.3 INSPECTIONS

Deputies shall be responsible for inspecting the interior and exterior of any assigned vehicle before taking the vehicle into service. Any previously unreported damage, mechanical problems, unauthorized contents, or other problems with the vehicle shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented as appropriate.

The interior of any vehicle that has been used to transport any person other than a member of this office shall be inspected prior to placing another person in the vehicle and again after the person is removed. This is to ensure that unauthorized or personal items have not been left in the vehicle.

When transporting any suspect, prisoner, or arrestee, the transporting Deputy shall search all areas of the vehicle that are accessible by the person before and after that person is transported.

All office vehicles are subject to inspection and/or search at any time by a supervisor without notice and without cause. No Deputy assigned to or operating such vehicle shall be entitled to any expectation of privacy with respect to the vehicle or its contents.

703.4.4 SECURITY AND UNATTENDED VEHICLES

Unattended vehicles should be locked and secured at all times. No key should be left in the vehicle except when it is necessary that the vehicle be left running (e.g., continued activation of emergency lights, canine safety, equipment charging). Deputies who exit a vehicle rapidly in an emergency situation or to engage in a foot pursuit must carefully balance the need to exit the vehicle quickly with the need to secure the vehicle.

Deputies shall ensure all weapons are secured while the vehicle is unattended.

703.4.5 MOBILE DATA CENTER

Deputies assigned to vehicles equipped with a Mobile Data Center (MDC) shall log onto the MDC with the required information when going on-duty. If the vehicle is not equipped with a working MDC, the member shall notify Dispatch. Use of the MDC is governed by the Mobile Data Center Use Policy.

703.4.6 KEYS

Deputies approved to operate marked patrol vehicles should be issued a copy of the key as part of their initial equipment distribution. Deputies who are assigned a specific vehicle should be issued keys for that vehicle.

Deputies shall not duplicate keys. The loss of a key shall be promptly reported in writing through the member's chain of command. If a Deputy requires a duplicate key, the Deputy shall make a vehicle repair/request via E-mail to the assigned Skamania County Fleet service provider.

703.4.7 AUTHORIZED PASSENGERS

Deputies operating office vehicles shall not permit persons other than County personnel or persons required to be conveyed in the performance of duty, or as otherwise authorized, to ride as passengers in the vehicle, except as stated in the Ride-Along Policy.

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703.4.8 ALCOHOL

Deputies who have consumed alcohol are prohibited from operating any office vehicle unless it is required by the duty assignment (e.g., task force, undercover work). Regardless of assignment, members may not violate state law regarding vehicle operation while intoxicated.

703.4.9 PARKING

Except when responding to an emergency or when urgent office-related business requires otherwise, Deputies driving office vehicles should obey all parking regulations at all times.

Office vehicles should be parked in assigned stalls. Members shall not park privately owned vehicles in stalls assigned to office vehicles or in other areas of the parking lot that are not so designated unless authorized by a supervisor.

703.4.10 ACCESSORIES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

There shall be no modifications, additions or removal of any equipment or accessories without written permission from the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

703.4.11 NON-SWORN MEMBER USE

Non-sworn members using marked emergency vehicles shall ensure that all weapons have been removed before going into service. Non-sworn members shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.

703.5 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ASSIGNMENT TO VEHICLES

Office vehicles may be assigned to individual Deputies at the discretion of the Sheriff. Vehicles may be assigned for on-duty and/or take-home use. Assigned vehicles may be changed at any time. Permission to take home a vehicle may be withdrawn at any time.

The assignment of vehicles may be suspended when the Deputy is unable to perform his/her regular assignment.

703.5.1 ON-DUTY USE

Vehicle assignments shall be based on the nature of the Deputy's duties, job description and essential functions, and employment or appointment status. Vehicles may be reassigned or utilized by other Deputies at the discretion of the Sheriff or the authorized designee. Deputies will operate their assigned patrol vehicles with due care and caution at all times (see [RCW 46.61.445](#) .)

703.5.2 UNSCHEDULED TAKE-HOME USE

Circumstances may arise where Skamania County owned vehicles must be used by Deputies to commute to and from a work assignment. Deputies may take home office vehicles only with prior approval of a supervisor and shall meet the following criteria:

- (a) The circumstances are unplanned and were created by the needs of the Office.
- (b) Other reasonable transportation options are not available.

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- (c) The Deputy lives within a reasonable distance (generally not to exceed a 60-minute drive time) of the Skamania County limits.
- (d) Off-street parking will be available at the member's residence.
- (e) Vehicles will be locked when not attended.
- (f) All firearms, weapons and control devices will be removed from the interior of the vehicle and properly secured in the residence when the vehicle is not attended, unless the vehicle is parked in a locked garage.

703.5.3 ASSIGNED VEHICLES

Assignment of take-home vehicles shall be based on the location of the Deputy's residence; the nature of the Deputy's duties, job description and essential functions; and the Deputy's employment or appointment status. Residence in the County of Skamania is a prime consideration for assignment of a take-home vehicle. Deputy's who reside outside the County of Skamania may be required to secure the vehicle at a designated location or the Office at the discretion of the Sheriff

Criteria for use of take-home vehicles include the following:

- (a) Vehicles shall only be used for work-related purposes and shall not be used for personal errands or transports, unless special circumstances exist and the Sheriff or a Division Chief gives authorization.
- (b) Vehicles may be used to transport the Deputy to and from the Deputy's 's residence for work-related purposes.
- (c) Vehicles will not be used when off-duty except:
 - (a) In circumstances when a Deputy has been placed on call by the Sheriff or Division Chiefs and there is a high probability that the Deputy will be called back to duty.
 - (b) When the Deputy is performing a work-related function during what normally would be an off-duty period, including vehicle maintenance or traveling to or from a work-related activity or function.
 - (c) When the Deputy has received permission from the Sheriff or Division Chiefs.
 - (d) When the vehicle is being used by the Sheriff, Division Chiefs or Deputies who are in on-call administrative positions.
 - (e) When the vehicle is being used by on-call investigators.
- (d) While operating the vehicle, authorized Deputies will carry and have accessible their duty firearms and be prepared to perform any function they would be expected to perform while on-duty.
- (e) The two-way communications radio, MDC and global positioning satellite device, if equipped, must be on and set to an audible volume when the vehicle is in operation.
- (f) Unattended vehicles are to be locked and secured at all times.

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1. No key should be left in the vehicle except when it is necessary that the vehicle be left running (e.g., continued activation of emergency lights, canine safety, equipment charging).
 2. All weapons shall be secured while the vehicle is unattended.
 3. All office identification, portable radios and equipment should be secured.
- (g) Vehicles are to be parked off-street at the Deputy's residence unless prior arrangements have been made with the Sheriff or the authorized designee. If the vehicle is not secured inside a locked garage, all firearms and kinetic impact weapons shall be removed and properly secured in the residence (see the Firearms Policy regarding safe storage of firearms at home).
- (h) Vehicles are to be secured at the Deputy's residence or the appropriate office facility, at the discretion of the Office when a Deputy will be away (e.g., on vacation) for periods exceeding one week.
- (a) If the vehicle remains at the residence of the Deputy, the Office shall have access to the vehicle.
 - (b) If the Deputy is unable to provide access to the vehicle, it shall be parked at the Office.
- (i) The Deputy is responsible for the care and maintenance of the vehicle.

703.5.4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

When driving a take-home vehicle to and from work outside of the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office or while off-duty, a deputy shall not initiate enforcement actions except in those circumstances where a potential threat to life or serious property damage exists (see the Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions and Law Enforcement Authority policies).

Deputies may render public assistance when it is deemed prudent (e.g., to a stranded motorist).

Deputies driving take-home vehicles shall be armed, appropriately attired and carry their office-issued identification. Deputies should also ensure that office radio communication capabilities are maintained to the extent feasible.

703.5.5 MAINTENANCE

Deputies are responsible for the cleanliness (exterior and interior) and overall maintenance of their assigned vehicles. Cleaning and maintenance supplies will be provided by the Office. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in discipline and loss of vehicle assignment. The following should be performed as outlined below:

- (a) Deputies shall make daily inspections of their assigned vehicles for service/maintenance requirements and damage.
- (b) It is the Deputy's responsibility to ensure that his/her assigned vehicle is maintained according to the established service and maintenance schedule.
- (c) All scheduled vehicle maintenance and car washes shall be performed as necessary at a facility approved by the office supervisor in charge of vehicle maintenance.

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- (d) The Office shall be notified of problems with the vehicle and approve any major repairs before they are performed.
- (e) When leaving the vehicle at the maintenance facility, the Deputy will complete a vehicle repair request explaining the service or repair, via E-mail.
- (f) All weapons shall be removed from any vehicle left for maintenance.
- (g) Supervisors shall make, at a minimum, bi-yearly inspections of vehicles assigned to Deputies under their command to ensure the vehicles are being maintained in accordance with this policy.

703.6 UNMARKED VEHICLES

Unmarked vehicles are assigned to various divisions and their use is restricted to the respective division and the assigned member, unless otherwise approved by a supervisor.

703.7 SEAT BELT USAGE

When operating a Skamania County vehicle, Deputies/passengers should utilize safety belt restraints whenever practicable ([RCW 46.61.688](#)). It is understood in regular situations, seatbelt usage can become an officer's safety concern (e.g. arriving on scene, traffic stops.) and are left to the discretion of the Deputy.

703.8 DAMAGE, ABUSE, AND MISUSE

When any office vehicle is involved in a traffic collision or otherwise incurs damage, the involved Deputy shall promptly notify a supervisor. Any traffic collision report shall be filed with the agency having jurisdiction (see the Traffic Collision Reporting Policy {501}).

When a collision involves a Skamania County Sheriff's vehicle or when a Deputy of this agency is an involved driver in a collision that occurs in this jurisdiction, and the collision results in serious injury or death, the supervisor should request that an outside law enforcement agency be summoned to investigate the collision.

Damage to any office vehicle that was not caused by a traffic collision shall be immediately reported during the shift in which the damage was discovered, documented in memorandum format, and forwarded to the Shift Sergeant. An administrative investigation should be initiated to determine if there has been any vehicle abuse or misuse.

703.9 TOLL ROAD USAGE

Authorized on-duty emergency vehicles are exempt from incurring toll road charges. An authorized emergency vehicle is an on-duty vehicle of the Office which is equipped with emergency lights

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and siren and used to respond to emergency calls (WAC 468-270-030; WAC 468-270-085; WAC 468-270-105).

To avoid unnecessary toll road charges, all Deputies operating office vehicles on a toll road shall adhere to the following:

- (a) Deputies operating office vehicles that are not authorized emergency vehicles shall pay the appropriate toll charge or utilize the appropriate toll way transponder. Deputies may submit a request for reimbursement from the County for any toll fees incurred in the course of official business.
- (b) Deputies in unauthorized vehicles passing through a toll plaza or booth during a response to an emergency shall notify, in writing, the appropriate Division Chief within five working days explaining the circumstances.

703.10 ATTIRE AND APPEARANCE

When operating any office vehicle while off-duty, members may dress in a manner appropriate for their intended activity. Whenever in view of or in contact with the public, attire and appearance, regardless of the activity, should be suitable to reflect positively upon the Office.

Cash Handling, Security and Management

704.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to ensure office members handle cash appropriately in the performance of their duties.

This policy does not address cash-handling issues specific to the Property and Evidence and Informants policies.

704.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to properly handle and document cash transactions and to maintain accurate records of cash transactions in order to protect the integrity of office operations and ensure the public trust.

704.3 PETTY CASH FUNDS

The Sheriff shall designate a person as the fund manager responsible for maintaining and managing the petty cash fund.

Each petty cash fund requires the creation and maintenance of an accurate and current transaction ledger and the filing of invoices, receipts, cash transfer forms and expense reports by the fund manager.

704.4 PETTY CASH TRANSACTIONS

The fund manager shall document all transactions on the ledger and any other appropriate forms. Each person participating in the transaction shall sign or otherwise validate the ledger, attesting to the accuracy of the entry. Transactions should include the filing of an appropriate receipt, invoice or cash transfer form. Transactions that are not documented by a receipt, invoice or cash transfer form require an expense report.

704.5 PETTY CASH AUDITS

The fund manager shall perform an audit no less than once every six months. This audit requires that the fund manager and at least one command staff member, selected by the Sheriff, review the transaction ledger and verify the accuracy of the accounting. The fund manager and the participating member shall sign or otherwise validate the ledger attesting to the accuracy of all documentation and fund accounting. A discrepancy in the audit requires documentation by those performing the audit and an immediate reporting of the discrepancy to the Sheriff.

Transference of fund management to another member shall require a separate petty cash audit and involve a command staff member.

A separate audit of each petty cash fund should be completed on a random date, approximately once each year by the Sheriff or the County.

Cash Handling, Security and Management

704.6 ROUTINE CASH HANDLING

Those who handle cash as part of their property or Investigations Unit supervisor duties shall discharge those duties in accordance with the Property and Evidence and Informants policies.

Members who routinely accept payment for office services shall discharge those duties in accordance with the procedures established for those tasks.

704.7 OTHER CASH HANDLING

Members of the Office who, within the course of their duties, are in possession of cash that is not their property or that is outside their defined cash-handling responsibilities shall, as soon as practicable, verify the amount, summon another member to verify their accounting, and process the cash for safekeeping or as evidence or found property, in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy.

Cash in excess of \$1,000 requires immediate notification of a supervisor, special handling, verification and accounting by the supervisor. Each member involved in this process shall complete an appropriate report or record entry.

Personal Protective Equipment

705.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy identifies the different types of personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the Office as well the requirements and guidelines for the use of PPE.

This policy does not address ballistic vests or protection from communicable disease, as those issues are addressed in the Body Armor and Communicable Diseases policies.

705.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - Equipment that protects a person from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical or other workplace hazards.

Respiratory PPE - Any device that is worn by the user to protect from exposure to atmospheres where there is smoke, low levels of oxygen, high levels of carbon monoxide, or the presence of toxic gases or other respiratory hazards. For purposes of this policy, respiratory PPE does not include particulate-filtering masks such as N95 or N100 masks.

705.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office endeavors to protect members by supplying certain PPE to members as provided in this policy.

705.3 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are required to use PPE as provided in this policy and pursuant to their training.

Members are responsible for proper maintenance and storage of issued PPE. PPE should be stored in an appropriate location so that it is available when needed.

Any member who identifies hazards in the workplace is encouraged to utilize the procedures in the Accident, Illness and Injury Prevention Policy to recommend new or improved PPE or additional needs for PPE.

705.4 HEARING PROTECTION

Approved hearing protection shall be used by members during firearms training.

Hearing protection shall meet or exceed the requirements provided in [WAC 296-817-200](#).

705.5 EYE PROTECTION

Approved eye protection, including side protection, shall be used by members during firearms training. Eye protection for members who wear prescription lenses shall incorporate the prescription (e.g., eye protection that can be worn over prescription lenses). Members shall ensure their eye protection does not interfere with the fit of their hearing protection.

Personal Protective Equipment

The Rangemaster shall ensure eye protection meets or exceeds the requirements provided in [WAC 296-800-16050](#) .

705.6 HEAD AND BODY PROTECTION

Members who make arrests or control crowds should be provided ballistic head protection with an attachable face shield.

Padded body protection consisting of chest, arm, leg and groin protection should be provided as required by any collective bargaining agreement.

705.7 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

The Administration Division Chief is responsible for ensuring a respiratory protection plan is developed and maintained by a trained and qualified member. The plan shall include procedures for (WAC 296-842-12005):

- (a) Selecting appropriate respiratory PPE based on hazards and risks associated with functions or positions.
- (b) Fit testing, including identification of members or contractors qualified to conduct fit testing.
- (c) Medical evaluations.
- (d) PPE inventory control.
- (e) PPE issuance and replacement.
- (f) Cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding and otherwise maintaining respiratory PPE, including schedules for these activities.
- (g) Regularly reviewing the PPE plan.
- (h) Remaining current with applicable National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) and state PPE standards and guidelines.

705.7.1 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION USE

Designated members may be issued respiratory PPE based on the member's assignment (e.g., a narcotics investigator who is involved in clandestine lab investigations).

Respiratory PPE may be worn when authorized by a scene commander who will determine the type and level of protection appropriate at a scene based upon an evaluation of the hazards present.

Scene commanders are responsible for monitoring members using respiratory PPE and their degree of exposure or stress. When there is a change in work area conditions or when a member's degree of exposure or stress may affect respirator effectiveness, the scene commander shall reevaluate the continued effectiveness of the respirator and direct the member to leave the respirator use area when the scene commander reasonably believes ([WAC 296-842-18010](#)):

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- (a) It is necessary for the member to wash his/her face and the respirator facepiece to prevent eye or skin irritation associated with respirator use.
- (b) The member detects vapor or gas breakthrough, or there is a change in breathing resistance or leakage of the facepiece.
- (c) The member needs to replace the respirator, filter, cartridge or canister.
- (d) The member needs to readjust his/her respirator.
- (e) The member becomes ill.
- (f) The member experiences sensations of dizziness, nausea, weakness, breathing difficulty, coughing, sneezing, vomiting, fever or chills.

705.7.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Members shall not use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), full-face respirators or cartridge respirators unless they have completed training requirements for the equipment.

Members exposed to environments that are reasonably known to be harmful due to gases, smoke or vapors shall use respiratory PPE.

Members using respiratory PPE shall ([WAC 296-842-18005](#)):

- (a) Ensure that they have no facial hair between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face that could interfere with the seal or the valve function. Members also shall ensure that they have no other condition that will interfere with the face-to-facepiece seal or the valve function.
- (b) Not wear corrective glasses, goggles or other PPE that interferes with the seal of the facepiece to the face, or that has not been previously tested for use with that respiratory equipment.
- (c) Perform a user seal check per office-approved procedures recommended by the respirator manufacturer each time they put on a tight-fitting respirator.
- (d) Leave a respiratory use area whenever they detect vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in breathing resistance or leakage of their facepiece and ensure that the respirator is replaced or repaired before returning to the affected area.

705.7.3 GAS MASK

Full-face air-purifying respirators, commonly referred to as gas masks, may be fitted with mechanical pre-filters or combination cartridge/filter assemblies for use in areas where gases, vapors, dusts, fumes or mists are present. Members must identify and use the correct cartridge based on the circumstances:

A scene commander may order the use of gas masks in situations where the use of a SCBA is not necessary. These incidents may include areas where tear gas has or will be used or where a vegetation fire is burning. Gas masks shall not be used if there is a potential for an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

Members shall ensure their gas mask filters are replaced whenever:

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- (a) They smell, taste or are irritated by a contaminant.
- (b) They experience difficulty breathing due to filter loading.
- (c) The cartridges or filters become wet.
- (d) The expiration date on the cartridges or canisters has been reached.

705.7.4 RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING

No member shall be issued respiratory PPE until a proper fit testing has been completed by a designated member or contractor (WAC 296-842-15005).

After initial testing, fit testing for respiratory PPE shall be repeated (WAC 296-842-15005):

- (a) At least once every 12 months.
- (b) Whenever there are changes in the type of SCBA or facepiece used.
- (c) Whenever there are significant physical changes in the user (e.g., obvious change in body weight, scarring of the face seal area, dental changes, cosmetic surgery or any other condition that may affect the fit of the facepiece seal).
- (d) Whenever there is an indication that the respirator fit is unacceptable.

All respirator fit testing shall be conducted in negative-pressure mode.

705.8 RECORDS

The Training Manager is responsible for maintaining records of all:

- (a) PPE training.
- (b) Initial fit testing for respiratory protection equipment.
- (c) Annual fit testing.
- (d) Respirator medical evaluation questionnaires and any subsequent physical examination results.
- (e) These records shall be maintained in a separate confidential medical file.

The records shall be maintained in accordance with the office records retention schedule and [WAC 296-842-12010](#) .

705.9 TRAINING

Members should be trained in the respiratory and other hazards to which they may be potentially exposed during routine and emergency situations.

All members shall be trained in the proper use and maintenance of PPE issued to them, including when the use is appropriate; how to put on, remove and adjust PPE; how to care for the PPE; and the limitations (WAC 296-800-16025).

Members issued respiratory PPE shall attend annual training on the proper use of respiratory protection devices (WAC 296-842-16005).

Chapter 8 - Support Services

Property and Evidence

801.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the proper collection, storage, and security of evidence and other property. Additionally, this policy provides for the protection of the chain of evidence and those persons authorized to remove and/or destroy property.

801.2 DEFINITIONS

Property - Includes all items of evidence, items taken for safekeeping and found property.

Evidence - Includes items taken or recovered in the course of an investigation that may be used in the prosecution of a case. This includes photographs and latent fingerprints.

Safekeeping - Includes the following types of property:

- Property obtained by the Office for safekeeping, such as a firearm
- Personal property of an arrestee not taken as evidence
- Property taken for safekeeping under authority of a law

Found Property - Includes property found by an employee or citizen that has no apparent evidentiary value and where the owner cannot be readily identified or contacted.

801.3 PROPERTY HANDLING

Any employee who first comes into possession of any property, shall retain such property in his/her possession until it is properly tagged and placed in the designated property locker or storage room along with the property form. Care shall be taken to maintain the chain of custody for all evidence.

Where ownership can be established as to found property with no apparent evidentiary value, such property may be released to the owner without the need for booking. The property form must be completed to document the release of property not booked and the owner shall sign the form acknowledging receipt of the item.

801.3.1 PROPERTY BOOKING PROCEDURE

All property must be booked prior to the employee going off-duty. Employees booking property shall observe the following guidelines:

- (a) Complete the property form describing each item of property separately, listing all serial numbers, owner's name, finder's name, and other identifying information or markings.
- (b) Mark each item of evidence with the booking employee's initials and the date booked using the appropriate method so as not to deface or damage the value of the property.
- (c) Complete an evidence/property tag and attach it to each package or envelope in which the property is stored.

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- (d) Place the case and tracking number in the appropriate and visible area of the evidence packaging.
- (e) When the property is too large to be placed in a locker, the item may be retained in the supply room. Submit the completed property record into a numbered locker indicating the location of the property.

801.3.2 NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

All narcotics and dangerous drugs shall be booked separately using a separate property record.

Narcotics and dangerous drugs shall be weighed using a calibrated scale whenever a member enters or leaves the secured facility with the item unless the narcotics or dangerous drugs are being prepared for destruction.

The deputy seizing the narcotics and dangerous drugs shall place them in the temporary designated evidence locker.

801.3.3 EXPLOSIVES

Deputies who encounter a suspected explosive device shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor or the Shift Sergeant. The Regional Bomb Squad will be called to handle explosive-related incidents and will be responsible for the handling, storage, sampling, and disposal of all suspected explosives.

Explosives will not be retained in the Sheriff's facility. Only fireworks that are considered stable and safe and road flares or similar signaling devices may be booked into property. All such items shall be stored in proper containers and in an area designated for the storage of flammable materials. The property and evidence technician is responsible for transporting to the Fire Department, on a regular basis, any fireworks or signaling devices that are not retained as evidence.

801.3.4 EXCEPTIONAL HANDLING

Certain property items require a separate process. The following items shall be processed in the described manner:

- (a) Bodily fluids such as blood or semen stains shall be air dried prior to booking.
- (b) License plates found not to be stolen or connected with a known crime, should be released directly to the property and evidence technician, or placed in the designated container for return to the Department of Motor Vehicles. No formal property booking process is required.
- (c) All bicycles and bicycle frames require a property record. Property tags will be securely attached to each bicycle or bicycle frame. The property may be released directly to the property and evidence technician, or placed in the bicycle storage area until a property and evidence technician can log the property.
- (d) All cash shall be counted in the presence of a second deputy or supervisor and the envelope initialed by the booking deputy and the witness deputy/supervisor. The Shift Sergeant shall be contacted for cash in excess of \$1,000 for special handling procedures.

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County property, unless connected to a known criminal case, should be released directly to the appropriate County department. No formal booking is required. In cases where no responsible person can be located, the property should be booked for safekeeping in the normal manner.

801.3.5 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE

Whenever property seized by the Office is subject to forfeiture, specific notification procedures must be followed. It shall be the responsibility of the assigned deputy, detective, or the property and evidence technician to ensure that the following notifications are completed.

The owner of the property will be notified of the seizure and intended forfeiture of the seized property within 15 days following the seizure. Notification includes any person having any known right or legal interest in the seized property, including any community property interest. The notice of the seizure may be made by any method authorized by law ([RCW 10.105.010](#)).

The notification will include the legal reason for the seizure and information regarding how to appeal the pending forfeiture.

Notification procedures for property seized under Asset Forfeiture ([RCW 69.50.505](#)) are detailed in the Asset Forfeiture Policy.

801.3.6 STORAGE OF SURRENDERED FIREARMS

Deputies shall accept and store a firearm from any individual who has surrendered firearms under [RCW 9.41.800](#) (Surrender of weapons), the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, or after being detained under [RCW 71.05.150](#) or [RCW 71.05.153](#) . The deputy receiving the firearm shall:

- (a) Record the individual's name, address, and telephone number.
- (b) Record the firearm's serial number.
- (c) Record the date that the firearm was accepted for storage.
- (d) Prepare a property receipt form and provide a copy to the individual who surrendered the firearm.
 - 1. If the firearm was surrendered pursuant to the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, the original receipt should be forwarded promptly to the Chief Civil Deputy for timely filing with the court ([RCW 7.94.090](#)).
- (e) Never place a loaded firearm in the evidence lockers or submit a loaded firearm to Property officer for storage.
- (f) Package all ammunition separately.
- (g) Ask for an armorer or contact your supervisor for assistance with unfamiliar weapons

The property and evidence technician shall store a firearm accepted pursuant to this policy.

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801.3.7 FOUND PROPERTY

Found property surrendered to the Office shall be handled as required by [RCW 63.21.050](#) .

- Check all items in WACIC/NCIC; if you discover stolen items, follow the Recovered Property procedure.
- Citizens may generally claim all property they find with a value under \$100. There are exceptions: refer to the Finder's Law. You may destroy all property without specific value if citizens do not claim it.
- If the value is over \$100, the finder must follow the provisions of the RCW which covers found property disposal.
- When citizens notify us of found property worth more than \$100:
- We will take custody of all firearms, explosives (if deemed safe), precious metal or gems, currency, motor vehicles, or bicycles.
- We will take custody of all contraband. If not needed as evidence, mark for destruction.
- For all but the contraband, give the citizens a copy of the Evidence sheet as their receipt and a copy of the Washington Finder's Law.

801.4 PACKAGING OF PROPERTY

Certain items require special consideration and shall be booked separately as follows:

- (a) Narcotics and dangerous drugs.
- (b) Firearms (ensure they are unloaded and booked separately from ammunition).
- (c) Property with more than one known owner.
- (d) Fireworks.
- (e) Contraband.

801.4.1 PACKAGING CONTAINER

Employees shall package all property, except narcotics and dangerous drugs in a suitable container available for its size. Knife boxes should be used to package knives, and syringe tubes should be used to package syringes and needles.

A property tag shall be securely attached to the outside of all items or group of items packaged together.

801.4.2 PACKAGING NARCOTICS

The deputy seizing narcotics and dangerous drugs shall retain such property in his/her possession until it is properly weighed/counted, packaged, tagged, and placed in the designated narcotics locker, accompanied by two copies of the property record. Prior to packaging and if the quantity allows, a presumptive test should be made on all suspected narcotics. If conducted, the results of this test shall be included in the deputy's report.

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Narcotics and dangerous drugs shall be packaged in an envelope of appropriate size available in the report room. The booking deputy shall initial the sealed envelope and the initials covered with cellophane tape. Narcotics and dangerous drugs shall not be packaged with other property.

A completed property tag shall be attached to the outside of the container. The chain of evidence shall be recorded on the back of this tag.

801.5 RECORDING OF PROPERTY

The property and evidence technician receiving custody of evidence or property shall record his/her electronic signature, the date and time the property was received and where the property will be stored on the property control receipt.

A property number shall be obtained for each item or group of items. This number shall be recorded on the property tag and the property control receipt assigned through the PMI Evidence Tracking database.

Any changes in the location of property held by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall be noted in the property logbook and/or PMI Evidence Tracking database.

801.6 PROPERTY CONTROL

Each time the property and evidence technician receives property or releases property to another person, he/she shall enter this information into the PMI Evidence Tracking database and on the appropriate property control receipt. Deputies desiring property for court shall contact the property and evidence technician at least one day prior to the court day.

801.6.1 RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER PERSONNEL

Every time property is released or received, an appropriate entry on the evidence package shall be completed to maintain the chain of possession.

Request for analysis for items other than narcotics or drugs shall be completed on the appropriate forms and submitted to the property and evidence technician. This request may be filled out any time after booking of the property or evidence.

801.6.2 TRANSFER OR SHIPMENT OF EVIDENCE TO CRIME LABORATORY

The transporting employee will check the evidence out of property, indicating the date and time on the property control receipt and the request for laboratory analysis.

The property and evidence technician releasing the evidence must complete the required information on the property control receipt, entry into the the PMI Evidence Tracking database, and the evidence item. The lab forms will be transported with the property to the examining laboratory. Upon delivering the item involved, the deputy will record the delivery time on both copies, and indicate the locker in which the item was placed or the employee to whom it was delivered. The original copy of the lab form will remain with the evidence and the copy will be returned to the Records Section for filing with the case.

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When case property/evidence is shipped via mail, the associated lab forms will be transported with the property/evidence to the examining laboratory. When mailing, the shipping instructions should be followed with the associated United parcel Service (U.P.S.) shipping instruction manual. The property /evidence will be left with the property technician and/or temporary evidence locker while awaiting shipment for analysis. If property/evidence is left in a temporary evidence locker, notification will be made to the evidence technician to allow shipping as soon as practicable.

801.6.3 STATUS OF PROPERTY

Each person receiving property will make the appropriate entry to document the chain of evidence. Temporary release of property to deputies for investigative purposes, or for court, shall be noted on the property control receipt, stating the date, time, and to whom released.

The property and evidence technician shall obtain the signature of the person to whom property is released, and the reason for release. Any employee receiving property shall be responsible for such property until it is properly returned to property or properly released to another authorized person or entity.

The return of the property should be recorded in the PMI Evidence Tracking database as well as the property control receipt, indicating date, time, and the person who returned the property.

801.6.4 RELEASE OF PROPERTY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall make every effort to return personal property that is in the possession of this office when such **property is not considered evidence of a crime or is no longer needed as evidence**. In such cases, the property and evidence technician shall make a reasonable attempt to identify the lawful owner and provide written notice via US Mail within 15 days after the property is authorized to be released, or when practicable.

If the property remains unclaimed beyond sixty days after the initial written notice to the property owner, or, in the case of property held as evidence, sixty days from the date when the case has been finally adjudicated and the property has been released as evidence by order of the court, the Office may ([RCW 63.32.010](#) ; [RCW 63.40.010](#)):

- (a) At any time thereafter sell the property at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash. The disposition of all proceeds from such auctions shall be accounted for and recorded according to law ([RCW 63.32.030](#)).
- (b) Retain the property for the use of the Office subject to giving notice in the manner prescribed in [RCW 63.32.020](#) (or [RCW 63.40.020](#)) and the right of the owner, or the owner's legal representative, to reclaim the property within one year after receipt of notice, without compensation for ordinary wear and tear if, in the opinion of the Sheriff, the property consists of firearms or other items specifically usable in law enforcement work, provided that at the end of each calendar year during which there has been such a retention, the Office shall provide the County's elected body and retain for public inspection a list of such retained items and an estimation of each item's replacement value. At the end of the one-year period any unclaimed firearm shall be disposed of pursuant to [RCW 9.41.098](#) (2).

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- (c) Destroy an item of personal property at the discretion of the Sheriff if he/she determines that the following circumstances have occurred:
 - 1. The property has no substantial commercial value, or the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property; and
 - 2. The item has been unclaimed by any person after notice procedures have been met, as prescribed in this section; and
 - 3. The Sheriff or his/her designee has determined that the item is unsafe and unable to be made safe for use by any member of the general public.

If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, it may, after satisfying the notice requirements as prescribed in [RCW 63.32.020](#) , be offered by the Sheriff to bona fide dealers, in trade for law enforcement equipment. Such equipment shall be treated as retained property for purpose of annual listing requirements of the RCW. Such items may be destroyed at the discretion of the Sheriff if he/she believes that it has been, or may be used in a manner that is illegal ([RCW 63.32.010](#)).

The property and evidence technician shall release the property upon proper identification being presented by the owner for which an authorized release has been received. A signature of the person receiving the property shall be recorded on the original property form. After release of all property entered into the PMI Evidence Tracking database and on the property control receipt, a copy of the property control receipt shall be forwarded to the Records Section for filing with the case. If some items of property have not been released the property control receipt will remain with the Evidence Room. Upon release, the proper entry shall be documented in the Property Log and PMI Evidence Tracking database.

801.6.5 DISPUTED CLAIMS TO PROPERTY

Occasionally more than one party may claim an interest in property being held by the Office, and the legal rights of the parties cannot be clearly established. Such property shall not be released until one party has obtained a valid court order or other undisputed right to the involved property.

All parties should be advised that their claims are civil and in extreme situations, legal counsel for the Office may wish to file an interpleader to resolve the disputed claim.

801.6.6 CONTROL OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

The Detective Unit or Evidence Technician Supervisor will be responsible for the storage, control, and destruction of all narcotics and dangerous drugs coming into the custody of this office.

801.6.7 PROPERTY DEPICTING A MINOR ENGAGED IN SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT

No property or material that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct shall be copied, photographed, or duplicated. Such material shall remain under the control of this office or the court and shall be made reasonably available for inspection by the parties to a criminal proceeding involving the material. The defendant may only view these materials while in the presence of his/her attorney or an individual appointed by the court either at this office or a neutral facility as

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approved by the court ([RCW 9.68A.170](#)). Any request for inspecting such material should be brought to the attention of the assigned investigator or an investigation supervisor.

801.7 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

All personal property, other than vehicles governed by Chapter 46.52 RCW, not held for evidence in a pending criminal investigation or proceeding, and held for 60 days or longer where the owner has not been located or fails to claim the property, may be disposed of in compliance with existing laws upon receipt of proper authorization for disposal. The property and evidence technician should request a disposition or status on all property collected by the case Deputy which has been held in excess of 60 days, and for which no disposition has been received from a supervisor or detective ([RCW 63.32.010](#) ; [RCW 63.40.010](#)).

801.7.1 BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The property and evidence technician shall ensure that no biological evidence held by the Office is destroyed without adequate notification to the following persons, when applicable:

- (a) The defendant
- (b) The defendant's attorney
- (c) The appropriate prosecutor and Attorney General
- (d) Any sexual assault victim
- (e) The Investigation Division Chief

Biological evidence shall be retained for a minimum period established by Washington law ([RCW 5.70.010](#)) or the expiration of any sentence imposed related to the evidence, whichever time period is greater. Following the retention period, notifications should be made by certified mail and should inform the recipient that the evidence will be destroyed after a date specified in the notice unless a motion seeking an order to retain the sample is filed and served on the Office within 90 days of the date of the notification. A record of all certified mail receipts shall be retained in the appropriate file. Any objection to, or motion regarding, the destruction of the biological evidence should be retained in the appropriate file and a copy forwarded to the Investigation Division Chief.

Biological evidence related to a homicide shall be retained indefinitely and may only be destroyed with the written approval of the Sheriff and the head of the applicable prosecutor's office.

Biological evidence from an unsolved crime shall not be disposed of prior to expiration of the statute of limitations ([RCW 5.70.010](#)). Even after expiration of the applicable statute of limitations, the Investigation Division Chief should be consulted.

801.7.2 SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS

Unreported sexual assault kits shall be stored and preserved for 20 years from the date of collection ([RCW 5.70.030](#)).

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801.7.3 RETURN OF FIREARMS

Prior to the return of a privately owned firearm, the property and evidence technician shall ensure confirmation of the following ([RCW 9.41.345](#)):

- (a) The individual to whom the firearm is to be returned is the individual from whom the firearm was obtained/owner, an authorized representative of the individual, or other person identified by a court order.
- (b) The individual is eligible to possess a firearm pursuant to [RCW 9.41.080](#) .
- (c) The firearm is not required to be held in custody or prohibited from release.
- (d) Twenty-four hours has elapsed from the time the firearm was obtained by law enforcement or five business days if the firearm was seized in connection with a domestic violence call under [RCW 10.99.030](#) .
- (e) Notification is made to those family or household members, or an intimate partner, who have requested notification pursuant to established office protocol ([RCW 9.41.340](#)).
 - (a) Firearms shall be held in custody for 72 hours from the time notification is provided.

If a firearm or dangerous weapon was surrendered or lawfully seized pursuant to a protection order issued under [RCW 9.41.800](#) and is to be returned to a person other than the individual from whom the firearm or dangerous weapon was obtained, the property and evidence technician shall determine that the person is the lawful owner and obtain a written agreement, signed by the lawful owner under the penalty of perjury, that the firearm or dangerous weapon will be stored in a manner to prevent the individual from whom the firearm or dangerous weapon was obtained, from accessing, controlling, or possessing the firearm or dangerous weapon ([RCW 9.41.801](#)).

Upon confirmation that the individual is eligible to possess a firearm and any applicable notifications are complete, the firearm shall be released to the individual or authorized representative upon request without unnecessary delay.

If a firearm cannot be returned because it is required to be held in custody or is otherwise prohibited from release, written notice shall be provided to the individual within five business days of the date the individual requested return of the firearm. The written notice shall include the reason the firearm must remain in custody.

801.7.4 RELEASE OF FIREARMS IN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER MATTERS

If an extreme risk protection order is terminated or expires without renewal, a firearm taken or surrendered pursuant to the order shall be returned to the person after ([RCW 7.94.100](#)):

- (a) Confirming through a background check that the person is currently eligible to possess the firearm under federal and state law.
- (b) Confirming with the court that the extreme risk protection order is no longer in effect.
- (c) Notice has been provided to a family or household member who requested notification.

If an individual other than the restrained person claims title to any firearms surrendered or taken into custody, and that individual is determined to be the lawful owner and a lawful possessor of

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the firearm, the firearm shall be returned to that individual provided that he/she agrees to store the firearm in a manner that prevents the restrained person from access ([RCW 7.94.090](#)).

801.7.5 RELEASE OF FIREARMS AFTER EMERGENCY DETENTION

Firearms surrendered pursuant to [RCW 71.05.182](#) (surrender of firearms after emergency detention) shall be returned in compliance with the provisions of [RCW 9.41.345](#) as long as the six-month suspension period has expired or the person's right to possess firearms has been restored, whichever is sooner ([RCW 71.05.182](#)).

801.8 INSPECTIONS OF THE EVIDENCE ROOM

- (a) On a bi-annual basis, the supervisor of the evidence custodian shall make an inspection of the evidence storage facilities and practices to ensure adherence to appropriate policies and procedures.
- (b) Unannounced inspections of evidence storage areas shall be conducted annually as directed by the Sheriff.
- (c) An annual audit of evidence held by the office shall be conducted by a Division Chief (as appointed by the Sheriff) not routinely or directly connected with evidence control.
- (d) Whenever a change is made in personnel who have access to the evidence room, an inventory of all evidence/property shall be made by an individual not associated to the property room or function to ensure that records are correct and all evidence property is accounted for.

801.8.1 EVIDENCE ROOM SECURITY

Access to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office Evidence Room is restricted to authorized office personnel only. It shall be the responsibility of the property and evidence technician to control all access to the Evidence Room.

The property and evidence technician shall maintain a log of all persons entering the secured area of the Evidence Room. Personnel, other than those assigned to the Evidence Room, who have legitimate business in the secured area will be required to record their name, the date, time, and purpose for entry.

Records

802.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Chief Civil Deputy shall maintain the Office Records Section Procedures Manual on a current basis to reflect the procedures being followed within the Records Section. Policies and procedures that apply to all employees of this office are contained in this chapter.

802.1.1 NUMERICAL FILING SYSTEM

Case reports are filed numerically within the Records Section by Records Section personnel.

Reports are numbered commencing with the last two digits of the current year followed by a sequential number beginning with 00001 starting at midnight on the first day of January of each year. As an example, case number 09-00001 would be the first new case beginning January 1, 2009.

802.1.2 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office participates in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) and/or the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The Chief Civil Deputy is responsible for ensuring that UCR/NIBRS reports are provided to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) on a regular basis.

802.2 DEFINITIONS

#National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) -National Incident-Based Reporting System is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. Local, state and federal agencies generate NIBRS data from their records management systems. NIBRS was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. It captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident.

#Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) -The Uniform Crime Reporting program compiles official data on crime in the United States, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

#Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) is a role required by the FBI. Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy. # Must be one for each agency that has access to CJIS systems.
Serves as the Tribal agency point-of-contact on matters relating to access to. FBI CJIS systems.

802.3 FILE ACCESS AND SECURITY

All reports including, but not limited to, initial, supplemental, follow-up, evidence, and all reports critical to a case shall be maintained in a secure area within the Records Section accessible only to authorized Records Section personnel. Access to report files after hours or when records personnel are otherwise not available may be obtained through the Shift Sergeant.

Skamania County Sheriff's Office employees shall not access, view or distribute, or allow anyone else to access, view or distribute any record, file or report, whether hard copy or electronic file

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format, except in accordance with office policy and with a legitimate law enforcement or business purpose or as otherwise permissible by law.

802.3.1 REQUESTING ORIGINAL REPORTS

Generally, original reports shall not be removed from the Records Section. Should an original report be needed for any reason, the requesting employee shall first obtain authorization from the Chief Civil Deputy. All original reports removed from the Records Section shall be recorded on the Report Check-Out Log, which shall constitute the only authorized manner by which an original report may be removed from the Records Section.

802.3.2 RECORDS CONCERNING JUVENILES

The Chief Civil Deputy shall be responsible for the destruction of juvenile records in accordance with [RCW 13.50.270](#) , including the following circumstances:

- Upon receiving notification from the juvenile court that specific records should be destroyed.
- Upon receiving notification from the Office of the Governor that a specific juvenile has received a full and unconditional pardon, the Chief Civil Deputy shall ensure that all records pertaining to that juvenile are destroyed within 30 days.

802.4 USE OF A CENTRAL COMPUTERIZED ENFORCEMENT SERVICE SYSTEM (ACCESS)

ACCESS is a computer-controlled communications system located at the WSP Information Technology Division. ACCESS provides service to all the state and national information systems. The Chief of the WSP is vested with the authority to administer all operating phases of ACCESS and the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC). There are specific requirements for agencies accessing the information in the group of computer systems in ACCESS.

802.4.1 ACCESS USE REQUIREMENTS

No member of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office shall operate any of the ACCESS systems without first complying with the training requirements as listed in the ACCESS manual.

802.4.2 ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

As an authorized ACCESS user, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office complies with all of the following ACCESS requirements:

- Warrant entry
- Receiving information from outside agencies
- Recording information
- Verifying information
- Canceling information
- Providing 24-hour access to agency warrants

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It is the responsibility of the Chief Civil Deputy to ensure that all ACCESS computer and network security requirements are in place and operational.

802.5 OFFICER SAFETY ADVISORIES

A Violent Person File (VPF) database is maintained by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and is intended to provide protection to police, corrections, or other criminal justice officers. Individuals who represent a potential threat to deputies may be entered into the WACIC when they have previously exhibited assaultive or threatening behavior during contacts by law enforcement.

To qualify for entry, one or more of the following conditions must be met (WACIC Manual Chapter 29.01 II, A):

- (a) The offender has been convicted for assault or murder/homicide of a law enforcement officer, fleeing, resisting arrest or any such statute that involves violence against law enforcement.
- (b) The offender has been convicted of a violent offense against a person to include homicide and attempted homicide.
- (c) The offender has been convicted of a violent offense against a person where a firearm or weapon was used.
- (d) A law enforcement agency, based on its official investigatory duties, reasonably believes that the individual has seriously expressed his/her intent to commit an act of unlawful violence against a member of the law enforcement or criminal justice community.

Deputies who encounter a person who they believe is a threat to officer safety should submit a report detailing the circumstances of the contact and nature of the threat for entry as an Officer Safety Advisory.

All Officer Safety Advisories are subject to approval by the Sheriff or his/her designee.

Once approved, the Records Section and/or TAC Dispatcher is responsible for making the appropriate entry into the WACIC.

Whenever an Officer Safety Advisory is initiated by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, it is the responsibility of the Chief Civil Deputy to ensure that a copy of the supporting documentation and the authorized statement signed by the Sheriff are maintained in a separate file. Supporting documentation may include the crime report, officer's supplemental report, mental health report or other similar documentation.

802.6 COURT ORDERS

The Chief Civil Deputy shall see that no-contact orders received from the court are entered into the WACIC or other applicable criminal intelligence information system for one year or until the expiration date specified on the order. Upon receipt of notice that an order has been terminated, the Chief Civil Deputy shall see that the order is removed from the applicable system ([RCW 9A.40.102](#) ; [RCW 9A.40.104](#) ; [RCW 9A.40.106](#)).

Records Maintenance and Release

803.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance on the maintenance and release of office records. Protected information is separately covered in the Protected Information Policy **804**.

803.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing public access to records in a manner that is consistent with the Washington Public Records Act ([RCW 42.56.001](#) et seq.).

803.3 PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

The Sheriff shall designate a Public Records Officer ([RCW 42.56.580](#)). The responsibilities of the Public Records Officer include but are not limited to:

- (a) Managing the records management system for the Office, including the retention, archiving, release and destruction of office public records.
- (b) Establishing rules regarding the inspection and copying of office public records as reasonably necessary for the protection of such records.
 - (a) Rules and procedures for public inspection and copying shall be prominently displayed and made available to the public for inspection and copying ([RCW 42.56.040](#)).
- (c) Maintaining and making available for public inspection and copying an index of documents that provides identifying information of certain documents identified in [RCW 42.56.070](#) that are maintained by the Office.
- (d) Maintaining and updating the office records retention schedule including:
 - 1. Identifying the minimum length of time the Office must keep records.
 - 2. Identifying the office division responsible for the original record.
- (e) Identifying records or portions of records that are confidential under state or federal law and not open for inspection or copying.
- (f) Ensuring a current list containing every law that exempts or prohibits disclosure of specific information or records of the Office is available to the public ([RCW 42.56.070](#)).
- (g) Establishing rules regarding the processing of subpoenas for the production of records.
- (h) Ensuring the availability of a current schedule of fees for public records as allowed by law ([RCW 42.56.070](#); [RCW 42.56.120](#) ; [RCW 42.56.130](#)).
- (i) Ensuring that the business hours for record inspection or copying are posted on the office's website and made known by other means designed to provide the public with notice ([RCW 42.56.090](#)).

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- (j) Ensuring that the name and contact information of the Public Records Officer is visible to the public, including the office website and appropriate office publications ([RCW 42.56.580](#)).

803.4 PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

Any office member who receives a request for any record shall route the request to the Public Records Officer or the authorized designee.

803.4.1 REQUESTS FOR RECORDS

The processing of requests for any record is subject to the following:

- (a) The Office is not required to create records that do not exist.
- (b) When a record contains material with release restrictions and material that is not subject to release restrictions, the restricted material shall be redacted and the unrestricted material released.
 - 1. A copy of the redacted release should be maintained in the case file for proof of what was actually released and as a place to document the reasons for the redactions. If the record is audio or video, a copy of the redacted audio/video release should be maintained in the office-approved media storage system and a notation should be made in the case file to document the release and the reasons for the redacted portions.
- (c) Requests to inspect or copy records shall be responded to promptly. Within five business days of receiving the request, one of the following responses shall be made ([RCW 42.56.520](#)):
 - (a) Providing the record.
 - (b) Providing the internet address and link of the office website to the specific records requested.
 - (a) If the requester notifies the Office that access cannot be obtained through the internet, then copies of the record shall be provided or the requester may view the records on the office computer.
 - (c) Acknowledging the receipt of the request and providing a reasonable estimate of time the Office will require to respond to the request. Additional time may be required to respond based upon:
 - (a) The need to clarify the intent of the request.
 - (b) The need to locate and assemble the information requested.
 - (c) Notification to third persons or agencies affected by the request.
 - (d) Determination whether any of the information requested is exempt.
 - (d) Acknowledging the receipt of the request and asking the requester for clarification if the request is not clear and providing the requester a reasonable estimate of the time that will be needed to respond if the request is not clarified. If the requester does not respond, and the entire request

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is unclear, the Office need not respond. If only part of the request is unclear, the Office shall respond to those portions of the request that are clear.

803.4.2 DENIALS

- (a) The denial shall be accompanied by a written statement that includes the specific exemption and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the withheld record ([RCW 42.56.210](#)).
- (b) Requests that are denied are subject to judicial review and the burden of proof is on the Office to show that the records requested are exempt or prohibited in whole or part by statute ([RCW 42.56.550](#)).

803.5 RELEASE RESTRICTIONS

Examples of release restrictions include:

- (a) Personal identifying information, including an individual's photograph; Social Security and driver identification numbers; name, address, and telephone number; and medical or disability information that is contained in any driver license record, motor vehicle record, or any office record, including traffic collision reports, are restricted except as authorized by the Office, and only when such use or disclosure is permitted or required by law to carry out a legitimate law enforcement purpose (18 USC § 2721; 18 USC § 2722).
- (b) Personnel records that contain personal information to the extent that disclosure would violate privacy rights ([RCW 42.56.230](#) ; [RCW 42.56.250](#)).
- (c) Specific intelligence and specific investigative records regarding the discipline of a member of any profession where nondisclosure is essential for effective law enforcement or for the protection of any person's right to privacy ([RCW 42.56.240](#)).
- (d) Victim and witness information revealing the identity of persons who file complaints if disclosure would endanger the person's life, physical safety, or property (RCW 42.56.240).
- (e) Child victim and witness identity information including name, address, recordings, and photographs ([RCW 7.69A.030](#) ; RCW 42.56.240).
- (f) Concealed pistol license applications or information on the applications unless release is to law enforcement or corrections agencies under [RCW 9.41.070](#) .
- (g) Information revealing the specific details of the alleged assault, identity, or contact information of a child victim of sexual assault who is under age 18. Identifying information means the child victim's name, address, location, photograph, and in cases in which the child victim is a relative, stepchild, or stepsibling of the alleged perpetrator, identification of the relationship between the child and the alleged perpetrator. Contact information includes phone numbers, email addresses, social media profiles, and usernames and passwords (RCW 10.97.130; RCW 42.56.240).
- (h) Personal identifying information collected relating to local security alarm system programs and vacation crime watch programs (RCW 42.56.240).

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- (i) Certain criminal history record information as restricted by the Criminal Records Privacy Act ([RCW 10.97.040](#) et seq.).
- (j) Traffic collision reports except for what is authorized by RCW 46.52.080 and RCW 46.52.083.
- (k) Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, or intra-agency memorandums in which opinions are expressed, or policies formulated, or recommended (RCW 42.56.280).
- (l) Records that are relevant to a controversy (threatened, actual, or completed litigation) to which the Office is a party but which records would not be available to another party under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the superior courts (RCW 42.56.290).
- (m) Security records including but not limited to records relating to preparing and responding to criminal terrorist acts; vulnerability assessments and emergency and escape plans of secured facilities; information regarding infrastructure and security of computer and telecommunications networks; system security and emergency preparedness plans; and as further defined in RCW 42.56.420.
- (n) Global positioning system data that indicates the location of a member's residence or of a public employee or volunteer (RCW 42.56.240; RCW 42.56.250).
- (o) Information contained in a local, regional, or statewide gang database (RCW 42.56.240).
- (p) Body worn camera recordings that violate a person's right to privacy (RCW 42.56.240)
- (q) Personal identifying information, or information regarding citizenship or immigration status, of any victim of criminal activity or trafficking who is requesting certification for a U or T visa, except where allowed by law ([RCW 7.98.020](#)).
- (r) Personal identifying information about an individual's religious beliefs, practices, or affiliation ([RCW 42.56.235](#)).
- (s) Investigative records compiled by the Office regarding possible unfair practices of discrimination under [RCW 49.60.010](#) et seq. or possible violation of other federal, state, or local laws or Skamania County Sheriff's Office internal policies during an active and ongoing investigation (RCW 42.56.250).
 - 1. Records may be released upon completion of the investigation as allowed under RCW 42.56.250.
- (t) Any other information that may be appropriately denied by Washington law.

803.6 SUBPOENAS AND DISCOVERY REQUESTS

A Subpoena Duces Tecum (meaning 'subpoena for production of evidence') is a court order requiring the person subpoenaed to produce books, documents or other records under his or her control at a specified time/place in a court hearing or a deposition.

Any member who receives a subpoena duces tecum or discovery request for records should promptly contact a supervisor and the Public Records Officer for review and processing. While a

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subpoena duces tecum may ultimately be subject to compliance, it is not an order from the court that will automatically require the release of the requested information.

Generally, discovery requests and subpoenas from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) should be referred to the Prosecuting Attorney, County Attorney or the courts.

All questions regarding compliance with any subpoena duces tecum or discovery request should be promptly referred to legal counsel for the Office so that a timely response can be prepared.

803.7 RELEASED RECORDS TO BE MARKED

Each page of any written record released pursuant to this policy should be stamped or marked to indicate the office name and to whom the record was released.

Each audio/video recording released should include the office name and to whom the record was released.

803.8 SECURITY BREACHES

Members who become aware that any Skamania County Sheriff's Office system containing personal information may have been breached should notify the Public Records Officer as soon as practicable.

The Public Records Officer shall ensure the required notice is given to any resident of this state whose unsecured personal information is reasonably believed to have been acquired by an unauthorized person ([RCW 42.56.590](#)).

Notice shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable but may be delayed if notification will impede a criminal investigation.

For the purposes of the notice requirement, personal information includes:

- (a) An individual's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following:
 - 1. Social Security number or the last four digits of the Social Security number
 - 2. Driver license number or Washington identification card number
 - 3. Full account number, credit or debit card number, or any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account
 - 4. Any data elements listed in RCW 42.56.590 (e.g., date of birth, health insurance policy number, biometric data, email address, password)
- (b) Any of the data elements listed above without the individual's first and last name if the data elements would enable a person to commit identity theft or if encryption, redaction, or other methods have not safeguarded the data element (RCW 42.56.590).

If the breach reasonably appears to have been made to protected information covered in the Protected Information Policy, the Public Records Officer should promptly notify the appropriate

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member designated to oversee the security of protected information (see the Protected Information Policy).

803.9 EXPUNGEMENT

Expungement orders received by the Office shall be reviewed for appropriate action by the Public Records Officer. The Public Records Officer shall expunge such records as ordered by the court. Records may include, but are not limited to, a record of arrest, investigation, detention or conviction. Once a record is expunged, members shall respond to any inquiry as though the record did not exist.

803.10 DELETION OF ARREST RECORDS

Deletion of arrest records orders received by the Office shall be reviewed for the appropriate action by the Public Records Officer. The orders must be in compliance with the requirements listed in [WAC 446-16-025](#) , [RCW 10.97.060](#) , and [RCW 43.43.730](#) .

803.11 TRAINING

The Public Records Officer shall complete a training program consistent with the Attorney General's model rules within 90 days of assuming responsibilities for public records and complete refresher training as required ([RCW 42.56.152](#)) .

Protected Information

804.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the access, transmission, release and security of protected information by members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. This policy addresses the protected information that is used in the day-to-day operation of the Office and not the public records information covered in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

804.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Protected information - Any information or data that is collected, stored or accessed by members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office and is subject to any access or release restrictions imposed by law, regulation, order or use agreement. This includes all information contained in federal, state or local law enforcement databases that is not accessible to the public.

A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS) - Section manages and operates the statewide law enforcement telecommunications system. ACCESS provides telecommunications linkage to law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies. It provides a means for agencies to query multiple state and national databases to include information systems provided by the Department of Corrections, Department of Licensing, Parks, the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC), and the Washington State Identification Section (WASIS).

WAshtington Crime Information Center (WACIC), National Crime Information Center (NCIC) - A WACIC/NCIC stolen vehicle/property search is defined to include any nationally recognized source of stolen vehicle/property data obtained from the NCIC, including the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). ([WAC 308-56A-024](#))

804.2 POLICY

Members of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office will adhere to all applicable laws, orders, regulations, use agreements and training related to the access, use, dissemination and release of protected information.

804.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sheriff shall select a member of the Office to coordinate the use of protected information.

The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring member compliance with this policy and with requirements applicable to protected information, including requirements for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system, National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System

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(NLETS), Department of Licensing (DOL) records and the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC).

- (b) Developing, disseminating and maintaining procedures that adopt or comply with the U.S. Department of Justice's current Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy.
- (c) Developing, disseminating and maintaining any other procedures necessary to comply with any other requirements for the access, use, dissemination, release and security of protected information.
- (d) Developing procedures to ensure training and certification requirements are met.
- (e) Resolving specific questions that arise regarding authorized recipients of protected information.
- (f) Ensuring security practices and procedures are in place to comply with requirements applicable to protected information.

804.4 ACCESS TO PROTECTED INFORMATION

Protected information shall not be accessed in violation of any law, order, regulation, user agreement, Skamania County Sheriff's Office policy or training. Only those members who have completed applicable training and met any applicable requirements, such as a background check, may access protected information, and only when the member has a legitimate work-related reason for such access.

Unauthorized access, including access for other than a legitimate work-related purpose, is prohibited and may subject a member to administrative action pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy (**1010**) and/or criminal prosecution.

804.4.1 PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF RECORDS

It is a misdemeanor to furnish, buy, receive or possess criminal history record information without authorization by Washington law ([RCW 10.97.120](#)).

Divulging the content of any criminal record to anyone other than authorized personnel is a violation of the Standards of Conduct Policy.

Employees who obtain, or attempt to obtain, information from the office files other than that to which they are entitled in accordance with their official duties is a violation of the Standards of Conduct Policy (**320**).

804.5 RELEASE OR DISSEMINATION OF PROTECTED INFORMATION

Protected information may be released only to authorized recipients who have both a right to know and a need to know ([RCW 10.97.050](#)).

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A member who is asked to release protected information that should not be released should refer the requesting person to a supervisor or to the Chief Civil Deputy for information regarding a formal request.

Unless otherwise ordered or when an investigation would be jeopardized, protected information maintained by the Office may generally be shared with authorized persons from other law enforcement agencies who are assisting in the investigation or conducting a related investigation. Any such information should be released through the Records Section to ensure proper documentation of the release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy).

Protected information, such as Criminal Justice Information (CJI), which includes Criminal History Record Information (CHRI), should generally not be transmitted by radio, cellular telephone or any other type of wireless transmission to members in the field or in vehicles through any computer or electronic device, except in cases where there is an immediate need for the information to further an investigation or where circumstances reasonably indicate that the immediate safety of deputies, other office members or the public is at risk.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit broadcasting warrant information.

804.5.1 REVIEW OF CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD

An individual may review his/her criminal history record information held by this office after complying with established office requirements as authorized by [RCW 10.97.080](#) .

804.6 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION DISCLOSURE

Members shall not release personal information from any agency database for the purpose of investigation or enforcement of any government program compiling data on individuals based on religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin, or ethnicity ([RCW 42.60.020](#)).

804.7 SECURITY OF PROTECTED INFORMATION

The Sheriff will select a member of the Office to oversee the security of protected information.

The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to:

- (a) Developing and maintaining security practices, procedures, and training.
- (b) Ensuring federal and state compliance with the CJIS Security Policy and the requirements of any state or local criminal history records systems.
- (c) Establishing procedures to provide for the preparation, prevention, detection, analysis, and containment of security incidents, including computer attacks.
- (d) Tracking, documenting, and reporting all breach of security incidents to the Sheriff and appropriate authorities ([RCW 19.255.010](#) ; [RCW 42.56.590](#)).

804.7.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members accessing or receiving protected information shall ensure the information is not accessed or received by persons who are not authorized to access or receive it. This includes leaving protected information, such as documents or computer databases, accessible to others

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when it is reasonably foreseeable that unauthorized access may occur (e.g., on an unattended table or desk, in or on an unattended vehicle, in an unlocked desk drawer or file cabinet, on an unattended computer terminal).

804.8 TRAINING

All members authorized to access or release protected information shall complete a training program that complies with any protected information system requirements and identifies authorized access and use of protected information, as well as its proper handling and dissemination.

Chapter 9 - Custody

Custodial Searches

901.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance regarding searches of individuals in custody. Such searches are necessary to eliminate the introduction of contraband, intoxicants or weapons into the Skamania County Sheriff's Office facility. Such items can pose a serious risk to the safety and security of office members, individuals in custody, contractors and the public.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit the otherwise lawful collection of evidence from an individual in custody.

901.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Custody search - An in-custody search of an individual and of his/her property, shoes and clothing, including pockets, cuffs and folds on the clothing, to remove all weapons, dangerous items and contraband.

Physical body cavity search - A search that includes a visual inspection and may include a physical intrusion into a body cavity. Body cavity means the stomach or rectal cavity of an individual, and the vagina of a female person.

Strip search - A search that requires an individual to remove or rearrange some or all of his/her clothing to permit a visual inspection of the underclothing, breasts, buttocks, anus or outer genitalia. This includes monitoring an individual who is changing clothes, where his/her underclothing, buttocks, genitalia or female breasts are visible.

901.2 POLICY

All searches shall be conducted with concern for safety, dignity, courtesy, respect for privacy and hygiene, and in compliance with policy and law to protect the rights of those who are subject to any search.

Searches shall not be used for intimidation, harassment, punishment or retaliation.

901.3 FIELD AND TRANSPORTATION SEARCHES

A deputy should conduct a custody search of an individual immediately after his/her arrest and when receiving an individual from the custody of another. A deputy shall conduct a custody search of an individual before transporting the person who is in custody in any office vehicle.

Whenever practicable, a custody search should be conducted by a deputy of the same sex as the person being searched. If a deputy of the same sex is not reasonably available, a witnessing deputy should be present during the search.

Custodial Searches

901.4 SEARCHES AT SHERIFF'S FACILITIES

Custody searches shall be conducted on all individuals in custody, upon entry to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office facilities. Except in exigent circumstances, the search should be conducted by a member of the same sex as the individual being searched. If a member of the same sex is not available, a witnessing member must be present during the search.

Custody searches should also be conducted any time an individual in custody enters or re-enters a secure area, or any time it is reasonably believed that a search is necessary to maintain the safety and security of the facility.

901.4.1 PROPERTY

Members shall take reasonable care in handling the property of an individual in custody to avoid discrepancies or losses. Property retained for safekeeping shall be kept in a secure location until the individual is released or transferred.

Some property may not be accepted by a facility or agency that is taking custody of an individual from this office, such as weapons or large items. These items should be retained for safekeeping in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy (**See policy 802**).

All property shall be inventoried by objective description (this does not include an estimated value). The individual from whom it was taken shall be required to sign the completed inventory. If the individual's signature cannot be obtained (e.g. refusal/combative), the inventory should be witnessed by another office member. The inventory should include the case number, date, time, member's Skamania County Sheriff's Office identification number and information regarding how and when the property may be released.

901.4.2 VERIFICATION OF MONEY

All money shall be counted in front of the individual from whom it was received. When possible, the individual shall initial the dollar amount on the inventory. Additionally, all money should be placed in a separate envelope and sealed. Negotiable checks or other instruments and foreign currency should also be sealed in an envelope with the amount indicated but not added to the cash total. All envelopes should clearly indicate the contents on the front. The office member sealing it should place his/her initials across the sealed flap. Should any money be withdrawn or added, the member making such change shall enter the amount below the original entry and initial it. The amount of money in the envelope should always be totaled and written on the outside of the envelope.

901.5 STRIP SEARCHES

No individual in temporary custody at any Skamania County Sheriff's Office facility shall be subjected to a strip search unless there is reasonable suspicion based upon specific and articulable facts to believe the individual has a health condition requiring immediate medical attention or is concealing a weapon or contraband that constitutes a threat to the facility. Probable cause is required for a strip search when there is a belief the individual is concealing on his/her body evidence not constituting a threat to the facility ([*RCW 10.79.130*](#)).

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Factors to be considered in determining reasonable suspicion or probable cause include, but are not limited to ([RCW 10.79.140](#)):

- (a) The detection of an object during a custody search that may be a weapon or contraband and cannot be safely retrieved without a strip search.
- (b) Circumstances of a current arrest that specifically indicate the individual may be concealing a weapon or contraband.
 - 1. A felony arrest charge or being under the influence of a controlled substance should not suffice as reasonable suspicion absent other facts.
- (c) Custody history (e.g., past possession of contraband while in custody, assaults on office members, escape attempts).
- (d) The individual's actions or demeanor.
- (e) Criminal history (i.e., level of experience in a custody setting).
- (f) The nature of the offense.

No transgender or intersex individual shall be searched or examined for the sole purpose of determining the individual's genital status. If the individual's genital status is unknown, it may be determined during conversations with the person, by reviewing medical records, or as a result of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner (28 CFR 115.115).

901.5.1 STRIP SEARCH PROCEDURES

Strip searches at Skamania County Sheriff's Office facilities shall be conducted as follows (28 CFR 115.115):

- (a) Written authorization from the Shift Sergeant shall be obtained prior to the strip search.
- (b) All members involved with the strip search shall be of the same sex as the individual being searched, unless the search is conducted by a medical practitioner ([RCW 10.79.100](#)).
- (c) All strip searches shall be conducted in a professional manner under sanitary conditions and in a secure area of privacy so that it cannot be observed by those not participating in the search. The search shall not be reproduced through a visual or sound recording.
- (d) Whenever possible, a second member of the same sex should also be present during the search, for security and as a witness to the finding of evidence.
- (e) Members conducting a strip search shall not touch the breasts, buttocks or genitalia of the individual being searched.
- (f) The primary member conducting the search shall prepare a written report to include (RCW 10.79.150):
 - 1. The facts that led to the decision to perform a strip search.
 - 2. The reasons less intrusive methods of searching were not used or were insufficient.
 - 3. The written authorization for the search, obtained from the Shift Sergeant.

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Custodial Searches

4. The name of the individual who was searched.
 5. The name, serial number of the deputy and sex of the members who conducted the search.
 6. The name, sex and role of any person present during the search.
 7. The time and date of the search.
 8. The place at which the search was conducted.
 9. A list of the items, if any, that were recovered.
 10. The facts upon which the member based his/her belief that the individual was concealing a weapon or contraband.
 11. Any health condition discovered.
- (g) No member should view an individual's private underclothing, buttocks, genitalia or female breasts while that individual is showering, performing bodily functions or changing clothes, unless he/she otherwise qualifies for a strip search. However, if serious hygiene or health issues make it reasonably necessary to assist the individual with a shower or a change of clothes, a supervisor should be contacted to ensure reasonable steps are taken to obtain the individual's consent and/or otherwise protect his/her privacy and dignity.
- (h) Except at the request of the individual, no person, other than those who are participating in the search, shall be present or able to observe the search ([RCW 10.79.150](#)).
- (i) A copy of the written authorization shall be maintained in the file of the individual who was searched (RCW 10.79.150).

901.5.2 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE FIELD STRIP SEARCHES

A strip search may be conducted in the field only with Shift Sergeant authorization and only in exceptional circumstances, such as when:

- (a) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing a weapon or other dangerous item that cannot be recovered by a more limited search.
- (b) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing controlled substances or evidence that cannot be recovered by a more limited search, and there is no reasonable alternative to ensure the individual cannot destroy or ingest the substance during transportation.

These special-circumstance field strip searches shall only be authorized and conducted under the same restrictions as the strip search procedures in this policy, except that the Shift Sergeant authorization does not need to be in writing.

Custodial Searches

901.5.3 RESTRICTIONS

Strip searches should be limited to those situations where such searches are necessary. Reasonable efforts to use less intrusive methods, such as pat-downs, electronic metal detector or clothing searches shall be made prior to any strip search (RCW 10.79.060; RCW 10.79.140).

901.6 PHYSICAL BODY CAVITY SEARCH

Physical body cavity searches shall be subject to the following:

- (a) No individual shall be subjected to a physical body cavity search without written approval of the Shift Sergeant and only upon a search warrant. Authorization may be obtained electronically ([RCW 10.79.080](#)). A copy of any search warrant and the results of the physical body cavity search shall be included with the related reports and made available, upon request, to the individual or authorized representative (except for those portions of the warrant ordered sealed by a court).
- (b) Only a qualified physician, registered nurse or physician's assistant may conduct a physical body cavity search (RCW 10.79.100).
- (c) Except for the qualified physician, registered nurse or physician's assistant conducting the search, persons present must be of the same sex as the individual being searched. Only the necessary office members needed to maintain the safety and security of the medical personnel shall be present.
- (d) Privacy requirements, including restricted touching of body parts and sanitary condition requirements, are the same as required for a strip search.
- (e) All such searches shall be documented, including (RCW 10.79.080):
 - 1. The facts that led to the decision to perform a physical body cavity search of the individual.
 - 2. The reasons less intrusive methods of searching were not used or were insufficient.
 - 3. The Shift Sergeant's approval.
 - 4. A copy of the search warrant.
 - 5. The time, date, location, and description of the search.
 - 6. The medical personnel present.
 - 7. The names, sex, and roles of any office members present.
 - 8. A statement of the results of the search and a list of any contraband or weapons discovered by the search.
- (f) A copy of the written authorization shall be retained and made available to the individual who was searched or other authorized representative upon request.
- (g) Before any physical body cavity search is authorized or conducted, a thorough pat-down search, a thorough electronic metal-detector search, and a thorough clothing search, as appropriate, must be used. No physical body cavity search shall be authorized or conducted unless these other methods do not satisfy the safety, security, or evidentiary concerns of the Office (RCW 10.79.080).

Custodial Searches

- (h) The Shift Sergeant may allow the individual to have a readily available witness, of the individual's choosing, present at the time the search is conducted. The person chosen shall not be currently in custody or present an unreasonable security risk (RCW 10.79.100).

901.7 TRAINING

The Training Manager shall ensure members have training that includes (28 CFR 115.115):

- (a) Conducting searches of cross-gender individuals.
- (b) Conducting searches of transgender and intersex individuals.
- (c) Conducting searches in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs. The search must be conducted by a physician, registered nurse, or physician's assistant.

Biological Samples

902.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the collection of biological samples from those individuals required to provide samples upon conviction for certain offenses. This policy does not apply to biological samples collected at a crime scene or taken from an individual in conjunction with a criminal investigation. Nor does it apply to biological samples collected from those required to register, for example, as sex offenders.

902.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will assist in the expeditious collection of required biological samples from offenders in accordance with the laws of this state and with as little reliance on force as practicable.

902.3 OFFENDERS SUBJECT TO BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION

The following offenders must submit a biological sample ([RCW 43.43.754](#)):

- (a) An offender convicted of any felony offense.
- (b) An offender convicted of assault in the fourth degree where domestic violence as defined in [RCW 9.94A.030](#) was pleaded and proven ([RCW 9A.36.041](#)).
- (c) An offender convicted of assault in the fourth degree with sexual motivation ([RCW 9A.36.041](#) ; [RCW 9.94A.835](#)).
- (d) An offender convicted of communication with a minor for immoral purposes ([RCW 9.68A.090](#)).
- (e) An offender convicted of custodial sexual misconduct in the second degree ([RCW 9A.44.170](#)).
- (f) An offender convicted of failure to register as a sex or kidnap offender ([RCW 9A.44.040](#) et seq.).
- (g) An offender convicted of harassment ([RCW 9A.46.020](#)).
- (h) An offender convicted of patronizing a prostitute ([RCW 9A.88.110](#)).
- (i) An offender convicted of sexual misconduct with a minor in the second degree ([RCW 9A.44.096](#)).
- (j) An offender convicted of stalking ([RCW 9A.46.110](#)).
- (k) An offender who violates a sexual assault protection order granted under [RCW 7.105.050](#) et seq. (Civil Protection Orders).
- (l) An offender convicted of indecent exposure ([RCW 9A.88.010](#)).
- (m) An offender convicted of a sex or kidnapping offense and required to register under [RCW 9A.44.130](#) .

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Biological Samples

902.3.1 OPTIONAL SUBMISSION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

The Office may submit biological samples to the forensic laboratory services of the Washington State Patrol of an offender who is deceased and who was previously convicted of a qualifying offense regardless of the date of conviction ([RCW 43.43.754](#)).

902.4 PROCEDURE

When an offender is required to provide a biological sample, a trained member shall attempt to obtain the sample in accordance with this policy.

902.4.1 COLLECTION

The following steps should be taken to collect a sample:

- (a) Verify that the offender is required to provide a sample pursuant to [RCW 43.43.754](#) .
- (b) Verify that a biological sample has not been previously collected from the offender by querying the person's Washington State criminal history records. There is no need to obtain a biological sample if one has been previously obtained ([RCW 43.43.754](#)).
- (c) Use the designated collection kit provided by the Washington State Patrol to perform the collection and take steps to avoid cross contamination.

902.5 USE OF FORCE TO OBTAIN SAMPLES

If an offender refuses to cooperate with the sample collection process, members should attempt to identify the reason for refusal and seek voluntary compliance without resorting to using force. Force will not be used in the collection of samples except as authorized by court order or approval of legal counsel, and only with the approval of a supervisor.

Methods to consider when seeking voluntary compliance include contacting:

- (a) The individual's parole or probation officer, when applicable.
- (b) The prosecuting attorney to seek additional charges against the individual for failure to comply or to otherwise bring the refusal before a judge.
- (c) The judge at the individual's next court appearance.
- (d) The individual's attorney.
- (e) A chaplain.
- (f) Another custody facility with additional resources, where the individual can be transferred to better facilitate sample collection.
- (g) A supervisor who may be able to authorize custodial disciplinary actions to compel compliance, if any are available. The supervisor shall review and approve any plan to use force and be present to document the process.

The supervisor shall review and approve any plan to use force and be present to document the process.

Biological Samples

902.5.1 VIDEO RECORDING

A video recording should be made any time force is used to obtain a biological sample. The recording should document all persons participating in the process, in addition to the methods and all force used during the collection. The recording should be part of the investigation file, if any, or otherwise retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

902.6 LEGAL MANDATES AND RELEVANT LAWS

Washington law provides for the following:

902.6.1 AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND TRAINING

The patrol supervisor should maintain relevant informational material from the Washington State Patrol in the booking area of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office for training and guidance purposes. This should include the protocols for the collection, preservation and shipment of biological samples prepared by the Washington State Patrol ([WAC 446-75-060](#)).

Chapter 10 - Personnel

Recruitment and Selection

1000.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides a framework for employee recruiting efforts and identifying job-related standards for the selection process. This policy supplements the rules that govern employment practices for the Skamania County Sheriff's Office and that are promulgated and maintained by the Department of Human Resources.

1000.2 POLICY

In accordance with applicable federal, state, and local law, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office provides equal opportunities for applicants and employees regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected class by law. The Office does not show partiality or grant any special status to any applicant, employee, or group of employees unless otherwise required by law.

The Office will recruit and hire only those individuals who demonstrate a commitment to service and who possess the traits and characteristics that reflect personal integrity and high ethical standards.

1000.3 RECRUITMENT

The Administration Division Chief should employ a comprehensive recruitment and selection strategy to recruit and select employees from a qualified and diverse pool of candidates.

The strategy should include:

- (a) Identification of racially and culturally diverse target markets.
- (b) Use of marketing strategies to target diverse applicant pools.
- (c) Expanded use of technology and maintenance of a strong internet presence. This may include an interactive office website and the use of office-managed social networking sites, if resources permit.
- (d) Expanded outreach through partnerships with media, community groups, citizen academies, local colleges, universities and the military.
- (e) Consideration of shared or collaborative regional testing processes.

The Administration Division Chief shall avoid advertising, recruiting and screening practices that tend to stereotype, focus on homogeneous applicant pools or screen applicants in a discriminatory manner.

The Office should strive to facilitate and expedite the screening and testing process, and should periodically inform each candidate of his/her status in the recruiting process.

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Recruitment and Selection

1000.4 SELECTION PROCESS

The Office shall actively strive to identify a diverse group of candidates that have in some manner distinguished themselves as being outstanding prospects. Minimally, the Office shall employ a comprehensive screening, background investigation, and selection process that assesses cognitive and physical abilities and includes review and verification of the following:

- (a) A comprehensive application for employment (including previous employment, references, current and prior addresses, education, military record)
- (b) Driving record
- (c) Reference checks
- (d) Employment eligibility, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 and acceptable identity and employment authorization documents. This required documentation should not be requested until a candidate is hired. This does not prohibit obtaining documents required for other purposes.
- (e) Information obtained from public internet sites
- (f) Financial history consistent with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) (15 USC § 1681 et seq.)
- (g) Local, state, and federal criminal history record checks
- (h) Polygraph or voice stress analyzer (VSA) examination (when legally permissible) ([RCW 43.101.095](#) ; [WAC 139-07-040](#))
- (i) Medical and psychological examination (may only be given after a conditional offer of employment)
- (j) Review board or selection committee assessment

1000.4.1 VETERAN PREFERENCE

The Office will provide veteran preference percentages as required ([RCW 41.04.010](#)).

1000.5 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Every candidate shall undergo a thorough background investigation to verify his/her personal integrity and high ethical standards, and to identify any past behavior that may be indicative of the candidate's unsuitability to perform duties relevant to the operation of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office ([RCW 43.101.095](#)).

1000.5.1 NOTICES

Background investigators shall ensure that investigations are conducted and notices provided in accordance with the requirements of the FCRA (15 USC § 1681d).

1000.5.2 REVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Due to the potential for accessing unsubstantiated, private or protected information, the Administration Division Chief shall not require candidates to provide passwords, account information or access to password-protected social media accounts ([RCW 49.44.200](#)).

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The Administration Division Chief should consider utilizing the services of an appropriately trained and experienced third party to conduct open source, internet-based searches and/or review information from social media sites to ensure that:

- (a) The legal rights of candidates are protected.
- (b) Material and information to be considered are verified, accurate and validated.
- (c) The Office fully complies with applicable privacy protections and local, state and federal law.

Regardless of whether a third party is used, the Administration Division Chief should ensure that potentially impermissible information is not available to any person involved in the candidate selection process.

1000.5.3 DOCUMENTING AND REPORTING

The background investigator shall summarize the results of the background investigation in a report that includes sufficient information to allow the reviewing authority to decide whether to extend a conditional offer of employment. The report shall not include any information that is prohibited from use. The report and all supporting documentation shall be included in the candidate's background investigation file. These files shall be stored in a secured manner and made available only to those who are authorized to participate in the selection process.

1000.5.4 RECORDS RETENTION

The background report and all supporting documentation shall be maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

1000.5.5 BACKGROUND CERTIFICATION

Upon completion of the background investigation of a candidate who has received a conditional offer of employment with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, the background investigator shall certify to the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) that the background check has been completed and there was no information found that would disqualify the candidate from certification, and that the candidate is suitable for employment as a deputy ([RCW 43.101.095](#)).

1000.6 DISQUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

As a general rule, performance indicators and candidate information and records shall be evaluated by considering the candidate as a whole, and taking into consideration the following:

- Age at the time the behavior occurred
- Passage of time
- Patterns of past behavior
- Severity of behavior
- Probable consequences if past behavior is repeated or made public
- Likelihood of recurrence

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- Relevance of past behavior to public safety employment
- Aggravating and mitigating factors
- Other relevant considerations

A candidate's qualifications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, using a totality-of-the-circumstances framework.

1000.7 EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

All candidates shall meet the minimum standards required by state law ([RCW 43.101.095](#) ; [RCW 43.101.200](#)). Candidates will be evaluated based on merit, ability, competence and experience, in accordance with the high standards of integrity and ethics valued by the Office and the community.

Validated, job-related and nondiscriminatory employment standards shall be established for each job classification and shall minimally identify the training, abilities, knowledge and skills required to perform the position's essential duties in a satisfactory manner. Each standard should include performance indicators for candidate evaluation. Once selected, The Skamania County Sheriff's Office candidate must successfully pass the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and obtain his/her Washington State Peace Officer Certification. The candidate must then successfully pass a four phase Field Training Program prior to beginning his/her probationary period. The Department of Human Resources should maintain validated standards for all positions.

1000.7.1 STANDARDS FOR DEPUTIES

Candidates shall meet the following minimum standards established by the CJTC ([RCW 43.101.095](#)):

- (a) Be eligible for CJTC certification
- (b) Submit to a psychological evaluation
- (c) Submit to a polygraph examination
- (d) Submit to a criminal history check
- (e) Not been convicted of a felony offense

1000.8 PROBATIONARY PERIODS

The Administration Division Chief should coordinate with the Skamania Department of Human Resources to identify positions subject to probationary periods and procedures for:

- (a) Appraising performance during probation.
- (b) Assessing the level of performance required to complete probation.
- (c) Extending probation.
- (d) Documenting successful or unsuccessful completion of probation.

Special Assignments and Promotions

1002.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for promotions and for making special assignments within the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

1002.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office determines assignments and promotions in a nondiscriminatory manner based upon job-related factors and candidate skills and qualifications. Assignments and promotions are made by the Sheriff.

1002.3 SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT POSITIONS

The following positions are considered special assignments and not promotions:

- (a) Detective/Investigation Team
- (b) Firearms Instructor
- (c) Defensive Tactics
- (d) K-9/Canine handler
- (e) Collision investigator
- (f) Field Training Officer
- (g) Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor (EVOC)
- (h) Evidence Officer
- (i) Patrol Division Training Coordinator
- (j) Search & Rescue Coordinator
- (k) Patrol Tactics Instructor

1002.3.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements should be considered when selecting a candidate for a special assignment:

- (a) Three years of relevant experience
- (b) Off probation
- (c) Possession of or ability to obtain any certification required by CJTC or law
- (d) Exceptional skills, experience, or abilities related to the special assignment

1002.3.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used in evaluating candidates for a special assignment:

- (a) Presents a professional, neat appearance.
- (b) Maintains a physical condition that aids in his/her performance.

Special Assignments and Promotions

- (c) Expresses an interest in the assignment.
- (d) Demonstrates the following traits:
 - 1. Emotional stability and maturity
 - 2. Stress tolerance
 - 3. Sound judgment and decision-making
 - 4. Personal integrity and ethical conduct
 - 5. Leadership skills
 - 6. Initiative
 - 7. Adaptability and flexibility
 - 8. Ability to conform to office goals and objectives in a positive manner

1002.3.3 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for special assignments will include an administrative evaluation as determined by the Sheriff to include:

- (a) Supervisor recommendations - Each supervisor who has supervised or otherwise been involved with the candidate will submit a recommendation.
 - 1. The supervisor recommendations will be submitted to the Division Chief for whom the candidate will work.
- (b) Division Chief interview - The Division Chief will schedule interviews with each candidate.
 - 1. Based on supervisor recommendations and those of the Division Chief after the interview, the Division Chief will submit his/her recommendations to the Sheriff.
- (c) Assignment by the Sheriff.

The selection process for all special assignment positions may be waived for temporary assignments, emergency situations, training, and at the discretion of the Sheriff.

1002.4 PROMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements and information regarding any promotional process are available at the Skamania Department of Human Resources.

Grievance Procedure

1003.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this office that all grievances be handled quickly and fairly without discrimination against employees who file a grievance whether or not there is a basis for the grievance. Our Office's philosophy is to promote a free verbal communication between employees and supervisors.

1003.1.1 GRIEVANCE DEFINED

Grievance - Is any dispute involving the interpretation or application of any of the following documents by the person affected:

- The employee bargaining agreement (Memorandum of Understanding).
- This Policy Manual.
- County rules and regulations covering personnel practices or working conditions.

Grievances may be brought by an individual affected employee or by a group representative.

Specifically outside the category of grievance are complaints related to allegations of discrimination or harassment subject to the Discriminatory Harassment Policy **314**. Also outside the category of grievances are personnel complaints regarding any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance against any office employee that, if true, would constitute a violation of office policy or federal, state, or local law set forth in the Personnel Complaints Policy **1010**.

1003.2 PROCEDURE

Except as otherwise required under a collective bargaining agreement, if an employee believes that he/she has a grievance as defined above, then that employee shall observe the following procedure:

- (a) Attempt to resolve the issue through informal discussion with immediate supervisor.
- (b) If after a reasonable amount of time, generally seven days, the grievance cannot be settled by the immediate supervisor, the employee may request an interview with the Division Chief of the affected division or bureau.
- (c) If a successful resolution is not found with the Division Chief, the employee may request a meeting with the Sheriff.
- (d) If the employee and the Sheriff are unable to arrive at a mutual solution, then the employee shall proceed as follows:
 1. Submit in writing a written statement of the grievance and deliver one copy to the Sheriff and another copy to the immediate supervisor and include the following information:
 - (a) The basis for the grievance (i.e., what are the facts of the case).

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Grievance Procedure

- (b) Allegation of the specific wrongful act and the harm done.
- (c) Identification of the specific policies, rules or regulations or allegedly violated.
- (d) What remedy you are seeking or goal you would like to accomplish from this grievance.
- (e) The employee shall receive a copy of the acknowledgment signed by the supervisor including the date and time of receipt.
- (f) The Sheriff will receive the grievance in writing. The Sheriff and the BOCC will review and analyze the facts or allegations and respond to the employee within 14 calendar days. The response will be in writing, and will affirm or deny the allegations. The response shall include any remedies if appropriate. The decision of the BOCC is considered final.

1003.3 EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

Employees are entitled to have representation during the grievance process. The representative may be selected by the employee from the appropriate employee bargaining group.

1003.4 GRIEVANCE RECORDS

At the conclusion of the grievance process, all documents pertaining to the process shall be forwarded to Administration for inclusion into a secure file for all written grievances. A second copy of the written grievance will be maintained by the BOCC's office to monitor the grievance process.

1003.5 GRIEVANCE AUDITS

The Training Manager shall perform an annual audit of all grievances filed the previous calendar year to evaluate whether or not any policy/procedure changes or training may be appropriate to avoid future filings of grievances. The Training Manager shall record these findings in a confidential and generic memorandum to the Sheriff without including any identifying information from any individual grievance. If the audit identifies any recommended changes or content that may warrant a critical revision to this policy manual, the Training Manager should promptly notify the Sheriff.

Anti-Retaliation

1004.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy prohibits retaliation against members who identify workplace issues, such as fraud, waste, abuse of authority, gross mismanagement or any inappropriate conduct or practices, including violations that may pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of members.

This policy does not prohibit actions taken for nondiscriminatory or non-retaliatory reasons, such as discipline for cause.

These guidelines are intended to supplement and not limit members' access to other applicable remedies. Nothing in this policy shall diminish the rights or remedies of a member pursuant to any applicable federal law, provision of the U.S. Constitution, law, ordinance, or collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding.

1004.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office has a zero tolerance for retaliation and is committed to taking reasonable steps to protect from retaliation members who, in good faith, engage in permitted behavior or who report or participate in the reporting or investigation of workplace issues. All complaints of retaliation will be taken seriously and will be promptly and appropriately investigated.

1004.3 RETALIATION PROHIBITED

No member may retaliate against any person for engaging in lawful or otherwise permitted behavior; for opposing a practice believed to be unlawful, unethical, discriminatory or retaliatory; for reporting or making a complaint under this policy; or for participating in any investigation related to a complaint under this or any other policy.

Retaliation includes any adverse action or conduct, including but not limited to:

- Refusing to hire or denying a promotion.
- Extending the probationary period.
- Unjustified reassignment of duties or change of work schedule.
- Real or implied threats or other forms of intimidation to dissuade the reporting of wrongdoing or filing of a complaint, or as a consequence of having reported or participated in protected activity.
- Taking unwarranted disciplinary action.
- Spreading rumors about the person filing the complaint or about the alleged wrongdoing.
- Shunning or unreasonably avoiding a person because he/she has engaged in protected activity.

Anti-Retaliation

1004.3.1 RETALIATION PROHIBITED FOR INTERVENING OR REPORTING

A deputy shall not be retaliated against in any way for intervening or reporting in good faith any wrongdoing by another law enforcement officer. Wrongdoing means conduct that is contrary to law or policies of this office ([RCW 10.93.190](#)).

1004.4 COMPLAINTS OF RETALIATION

Any member who feels he/she has been retaliated against in violation of this policy should promptly report the matter to any supervisor, command staff member, Sheriff or the County Director of Human Services.

Members shall act in good faith, not engage in unwarranted reporting of trivial or minor deviations or transgressions, and make reasonable efforts to verify facts before making any complaint in order to avoid baseless allegations. Members shall not report or state an intention to report information or an allegation knowing it to be false, with willful or reckless disregard for the truth or falsity of the information or otherwise act in bad faith.

Investigations are generally more effective when the identity of the reporting member is known, thereby allowing investigators to obtain additional information from the reporting member. However, complaints may be made anonymously. All reasonable efforts shall be made to protect the reporting member's identity. However, confidential information may be disclosed to the extent required by law or to the degree necessary to conduct an adequate investigation and make a determination regarding a complaint. In some situations, the investigative process may not be complete unless the source of the information and a statement by the member is part of the investigative process.

1004.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors are expected to remain familiar with this policy and ensure that members under their command are aware of its provisions.

The responsibilities of supervisors include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring complaints of retaliation are investigated as provided in the Personnel Complaints Policy **1010**.
- (b) Receiving all complaints in a fair and impartial manner.
- (c) Documenting the complaint and any steps taken to resolve the problem.
- (d) Acknowledging receipt of the complaint, notifying the Sheriff via the chain of command and explaining to the member how the complaint will be handled.
- (e) Taking appropriate and reasonable steps to mitigate any further violations of this policy.
- (f) Monitoring the work environment to ensure that any member making a complaint is not subjected to further retaliation.
- (g) Periodic follow-up with the complainant to ensure that retaliation is not continuing.
- (h) Not interfering with or denying the right of a member to make any complaint.

Anti-Retaliation

- (i) Taking reasonable steps to accommodate requests for assignment or schedule changes made by a member who may be the target of retaliation if it would likely mitigate the potential for further violations of this policy.

1004.6 COMMAND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sheriff should communicate to all supervisors the prohibition against retaliation.

Command staff shall treat all complaints as serious matters and shall ensure that prompt actions take place, including but not limited to:

- (a) Communicating to all members the prohibition against retaliation.
- (b) The timely review of complaint investigations.
- (c) Remediation of any inappropriate conduct or condition and instituting measures to eliminate or minimize the likelihood of recurrence.
- (d) The timely communication of the outcome to the complainant.

1004.7 WHISTLE-BLOWING

Washington law protects employees who make good faith reports of improper government actions. Improper government actions include violations of Washington law, abuse of authority, gross waste of funds, and substantial and specific danger to the public health or safety ([RCW 42.40.010](#) et seq.; [RCW 49.60.210](#) ; [RCW 42.41.010](#) et seq.).

Members who believe they have been the subject of retaliation for engaging in such protected behaviors should promptly report it to a supervisor. Supervisors should refer the complaint to the Administration for investigation pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy.

1004.7.1 DISPLAY OF REPORTING PROCEDURES

The Office shall display the County policy to employees regarding their rights and the procedures for reporting information of an alleged improper government action. A copy of the policy shall be made available to employees upon request ([RCW 42.41.030](#)).

1004.8 RECORDS RETENTION AND RELEASE

The Chief Civil Deputy shall ensure that documentation of investigations is maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedules.

1004.9 TRAINING

The policy should be reviewed with each new member.

All members should receive periodic refresher training on the requirements of this policy.

Reporting of Arrests, Convictions, and Court Orders

1005.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the notification requirements and procedures that members must follow when certain arrests, convictions, and court orders restrict their ability to perform the official duties and responsibilities of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. This policy will also describe the notification requirements and procedures that certain retired deputies must follow when an arrest, conviction, or court order disqualifies them from possessing a firearm ([RCW 43.101.135](#)).

1005.2 POLICY

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office requires disclosure of member arrests, convictions, and certain court orders to maintain the high standards, ethics, and integrity in its workforce, and to ensure compatibility with the duties and responsibilities of the Office

1005.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONVICTIONS AND RESTRAINING ORDERS

Washington and federal law prohibit individuals convicted of certain offenses and individuals subject to certain court orders from lawfully possessing a firearm. Such convictions and court orders often involve allegations of the use or attempted use of force or threatened use of a weapon on any individual in a domestic relationship (e.g., spouse, cohabitant, parent, child) (18 USC § 922; RCW 9.41.040; RCW 9.41.801).

All members and retired deputies with identification cards issued by the Office are responsible for ensuring that they have not been disqualified from possessing a firearm by any such conviction or court order and shall promptly report any such conviction or court order to a supervisor, as provided in this policy.

1005.4 OTHER CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND COURT ORDERS

Washington law prohibits the possession of a firearm under the provisions of [RCW 9.41.040](#) (unlawful possession of firearms).

While legal restrictions may or may not be imposed by statute or by the courts upon conviction of any criminal offense, criminal conduct by members of this office may be inherently in conflict with law enforcement duties and the public trust, and shall be reported as provided in this policy.

1005.5 REPORTING

All members of this office and all retired deputies with an identification card issued by the Office shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor (or the Sheriff in the case of retired deputies) in writing of any past or current criminal detention, arrest, charge, plea, or conviction in any state or foreign country, regardless of whether the matter was dropped or rejected, is currently pending or is on appeal, and regardless of the penalty or sentence, if any.

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Reporting of Arrests, Convictions, and Court Orders

All members and all retired deputies with an identification card issued by the Office shall immediately notify their supervisors (retired deputies should immediately notify the Shift Sergeant or the Sheriff) in writing if they become the subject of a domestic violence-related order or any court order that prevents the member or retired deputy from possessing a firearm or requires suspension or revocation of applicable Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) certification.

Any member whose criminal arrest, conviction, or court order restricts or prohibits that member from fully and properly performing his/her duties, including carrying a firearm, may be disciplined. This includes but is not limited to being placed on administrative leave, reassignment, and/or termination. Any effort to remove such disqualification or restriction shall remain entirely the responsibility of the member, on his/her own time and at his/her own expense.

Any member failing to provide prompt written notice pursuant to this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Retired deputies may have their identification cards rescinded or modified, as may be appropriate (see the Retiree Concealed Firearms Policy).

1005.5.1 NOTIFICATION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

The Administration Division Chief shall ensure that notification has been made to CJTC within 15 days of learning that a deputy has been charged with a crime ([RCW 43.101.135](#)).

Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace

1006.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and uniform guidelines regarding drugs and alcohol in the workplace (41 USC § 8103).

1006.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to provide a drug- and alcohol-free workplace for all employees.

1006.3 GENERAL GUIDELINES

Alcohol and drug use in the workplace or on office time can endanger the health and safety of office employees and the public.

Employees who have consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any medication, or combination thereof, that would tend to adversely affect their mental or physical abilities shall not report for duty. Affected employees shall notify the Shift Sergeant or appropriate supervisor as soon as the employee is aware that the employee will not be able to report to work. If the employee is unable to make the notification, every effort should be made to have a representative contact the supervisor in a timely manner. If the employee is adversely affected while on-duty, the employee shall be immediately removed and released from work (see the Work Restrictions section in this policy).

1006.3.1 USE OF MEDICATIONS

Employees should not use any medications that will impair their ability to safely and completely perform their duties. Any employee who is medically required or has a need to take any such medication shall report that need to the employee's immediate supervisor prior to commencing any on-duty status.

No employee shall be permitted to work or drive a vehicle owned or leased by the Office while taking any medication that has the potential to impair the member's abilities, without a written release from the employee's physician.

1006.3.2 MEDICAL CANNABIS

Possession, use, or being under the influence of cannabis on-duty is prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action ([RCW 69.51A.060](#)).

1006.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees shall report for work in an appropriate mental and physical condition. Members are prohibited from purchasing, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing or using controlled substances or alcohol on office premises or on office time (41 USC § 8103). The lawful possession, purchase or use of prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies is excluded from this prohibition.

Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace

Employees who are authorized to consume alcohol as part of a special assignment shall not do so to the extent of impairing on-duty performance.

Employees shall notify a supervisor immediately if they observe behavior or other evidence that they believe demonstrates that a fellow employee poses a risk to the health and safety of the employee or others due to drug or alcohol use.

Employees are required to notify their immediate supervisors of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction (41 USC § 8103).

1006.5 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

There may be available a voluntary employee assistance program to assist those who wish to seek help for alcohol and drug problems (41 USC § 8103). Insurance coverage that provides treatment for drug and alcohol abuse also may be available. Employees should contact the Department of Human Resources, their insurance providers or the employee assistance program for additional information. It is the responsibility of each employee to seek assistance before alcohol or drug problems lead to performance problems. EAP shall be posted and distributed in the workplace to include a community service hot-line telephone number for employee assistance. Employees shall be made aware the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is confidential to encourage those employees who may be in need of help or resources.

1006.6 WORK RESTRICTIONS

If a member informs a supervisor that he/she has consumed any alcohol, drug or medication that could interfere with a safe and efficient job performance, the employee may be required to obtain clearance from his/her physician before continuing to work.

If the supervisor reasonably believes, based on objective facts, that an employee is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, the supervisor shall prevent the employee from continuing work and shall ensure that he/she is safely transported home or to a safe place.

1006.7 SCREENING TESTS

A supervisor may request an employee to submit to a screening under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The supervisor reasonably believes, based upon objective facts, that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs that are impairing the employee's ability to perform duties safely and efficiently and
- (b) The employee discharges a firearm in the performance of the employee's duties (excluding training or authorized euthanizing of an animal).
- (c) The employee discharges a firearm issued by the Office while off-duty, resulting in injury, death, or substantial property damage.

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Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace

- (d) During the performance of the employee's duties, the employee drives a motor vehicle and becomes involved in an incident that results in bodily injury, death, or substantial damage to property.

1006.7.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor shall prepare a written record documenting the specific facts that led to the decision to ask for the test, and shall inform the employee in writing of the following:

- (a) The test will be given to detect either alcohol or drugs, or both.
- (b) The result of the test is not admissible in any criminal proceeding against the employee.

1006.7.2 DISCIPLINE

An employee may be subject to disciplinary action if the employee:

- (a) After taking a screening test that indicates the presence of a controlled substance, fails to provide proof, within 72 hours after being requested, that the employee took the controlled substance as directed, pursuant to a current and lawful prescription issued in the employee's name.

1006.8 COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ACT

No later than 30 days following notice of any drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace involving a member, the Office will take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and/or requiring the member to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program (41 USC § 8104).

1006.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

The Office recognizes the confidentiality and privacy due to its members. Disclosure of any information relating to substance abuse treatment, except on a need-to-know basis, shall only be with the express written consent of the member involved or pursuant to lawful process.

The written results of any screening tests and all documents generated by the employee assistance program are considered confidential medical records and shall be maintained in the member's confidential medical file in accordance with the Personnel Records Policy **1013**.

Sick Leave

1007.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidance regarding the use and processing of sick leave. The accrual and terms of use of sick leave for eligible employees are detailed in the County personnel manual or applicable labor agreement.

This policy is not intended to cover all types of sick or other leaves. For example, employees may be entitled to additional paid or unpaid leave for certain family and medical reasons as provided for in the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or the Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave program (PFML) (29 USC § 2601 et seq.; [RCW 50.04.010](#) et seq.).

1007.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to provide eligible employees with a sick leave benefit.

1007.3 USE OF SICK LEAVE

Sick leave is intended to be used for qualified absences ([RCW 49.46.210](#)). Sick leave is not considered vacation. Abuse of sick leave may result in discipline, denial of sick leave benefits, or both (WAC 296-128-750).

Employees on sick leave shall not engage in other employment or self-employment or participate in any sport, hobby, recreational activity, or other activity that may impede recovery from the injury or illness (see the Outside Employment Policy **1021**).

Qualified appointments should be scheduled during a member's non-working hours when it is reasonable to do so.

1007.3.1 NOTIFICATION

All members should notify the Shift Sergeant or appropriate supervisor as soon as they are aware that they will not be able to report to work and within one hour before the start of their scheduled shifts, unless it is not practicable to do so. If it is impracticable and a member is unable to contact the supervisor, every effort should be made to have a representative for the member contact the supervisor ([WAC 296-128-650](#)).

When the necessity to be absent from work is foreseeable, such as planned medical appointments or treatments, the member shall, whenever possible and practicable, provide the Office with no less than 10 days' notice of the impending absence ([WAC 296-128-650](#)).

Upon return to work, members are responsible for ensuring their time off was appropriately accounted for, and for completing and submitting the required documentation describing the type of time off used and the specific amount of time taken.

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Sick Leave

1007.4 EXTENDED ABSENCE

Members absent from duty for more than three consecutive days may be required to furnish verification supporting the need to be absent and/or the ability to return to work (RCW 49.46.210; WAC 296-128-660). Members on an extended absence shall, if possible, contact their supervisors at specified intervals to provide an update on their absence and expected date of return.

1007.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Monitoring and regularly reviewing the attendance of those under their command to ensure that the use of sick leave and absences is consistent with this policy.
- (b) Attempting to determine whether an absence of four or more days may qualify as family medical leave and consulting with legal counsel or the Department of Human Resources as appropriate.
- (c) When appropriate, counseling members regarding inappropriate use of sick leave.
- (d) Referring eligible members to an available employee assistance program when appropriate.

1007.6 PERSONNEL AGENCY

The Director of Human Services shall ensure:

- (a) Written or electronic notice is provided to each employee regarding applicable paid sick leave provisions as required by [WAC 296-128-760](#) .
- (b) This Sick Leave Policy is readily available to all employees.
- (c) Employee records are retained and preserved regarding paid sick leave information and data as required by [WAC 296-128-010](#) .

1007.7 RETALIATION

No employee shall be retaliated against for using qualifying sick leave ([WAC 296-128-770](#)).

Attachments

Alert Data Entry Form 2020 (1).pdf

Alert Data Entry Form

Information Needed to Activate an Alert

AMBERAlertRequest@wsp.wa.gov

(* Indicates required field)

Alert Type: Select one

If an AMBER Alert; WA AMBER Alert Coordinator Advised

Law Enforcement Agency Contact Information

*Requesting Agency:

*Public #:

*Media #:

*24 Hour Law Enforcement Only #:

(This should be a number to reach someone in charge of the investigation that is authorized to make key decisions.)

Reporting Officer

*Data Provided By:

*Authorizing Officer:

*Authorizing Officer Rank:

*Authorizing Officer Badge #:

*Email Address (for Alert Preview/Approval):

DO NOT RESPOND TO THE PREVIEW ALERT MESSAGE – THIS EMAIL ADDRESS IS NOT MONITORED – SEND YOUR APPROVAL TO AMBERAlertRequest@wsp.wa.gov

Incident Details

Case Number:

*Date of Incident:

*Time of Incident:

*Incident Summary:

Address (or Cross Streets):

City:

*County:

*Zip Code:

Victim/Child Information *(Electronic Photo if available)*

*Name:

*Date of Birth:

*Age:

Ethnicity:

*Gender:

*Height (inches):

*Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Identifying Features (i.e. glasses, hair style, scar/marks/tattoos):

*Believed to be/Last seen wearing:

Suspect Information *(Electronic Photo if available)*

Name:

Date of Birth:

Age:

Ethnicity:

Gender:

Height (inches):

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Identifying Features (i.e. glasses, hair style, scar/marks/tattoos):

*Believed to be/Last seen wearing:

Vehicle Information *(An internet search of similar vehicles will provide a photo if none available)*

Color:

(Approx.) Year:

Make:

Model:

Style:

License:

State:

Additional Vehicle Information:

Requested Area of Activation for DOT Highway Signs (i.e. north-west Washington, Western Washington, Eastern Washington):

Washington State Law Enforcement Records Retention Schedule.pdf

This schedule applies to: Law Enforcement Agencies

Scope of records retention schedule

This records retention schedule covers the public records of local law enforcement agencies relating to the functions of law enforcement, criminal case investigation, and the management of the agency's assets and human resources. It is to be used in conjunction with the *Local Government Common Records Retention Schedule (CORE)* and other approved schedules that relate to the functions of the agency.

All current approved records retention schedules can be accessed online at: <http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/RecordsRetentionSchedules.aspx>.

Disposition of public records

Public records covered by records series within this records retention schedule must be retained for the minimum retention period as specified in this schedule. Washington State Archives strongly recommends the disposition of public records at the end of their minimum retention period for the efficient and effective management of local resources.

Public records designated as Archival (Permanent Retention), Permanent, or Non-Archival with a retention period of "Life of the Agency" must not be destroyed. Records designated as Archival (Appraisal Required) or Potentially Archival must be appraised by the Washington State Archives before disposition. Public records must not be destroyed if they are subject to ongoing or reasonably anticipated litigation. Such public records must be managed in accordance with the agency's policies and procedures for legal holds. Public records must not be destroyed if they are subject to an existing public records request in accordance with chapter [42.56 RCW](#). Such public records must be managed in accordance with the agency's policies and procedures for public records requests.

In addition to the minimum retention requirements specified in this schedule, there may be additional (longer) retention requirements mandated by federal, state and/or local statute, grant agreement, and/or other contractual obligations.

Revocation of previously issued records retention schedules

All previously approved disposition authorities for records that are covered by this retention schedule are revoked, including those listed in all general and agency unique retention schedules. Local government agencies must take measures to ensure that the retention and disposition of public records is in accordance with current, approved records retention schedules.

Authority

This records retention schedule was approved by the Local Records Committee in accordance with [RCW 40.14.070](#) on January 26, 2017.

Signature on File

For the State Auditor: Cindy Evans

Signature on File

For the Attorney General: Matt Kernutt

Signature on File

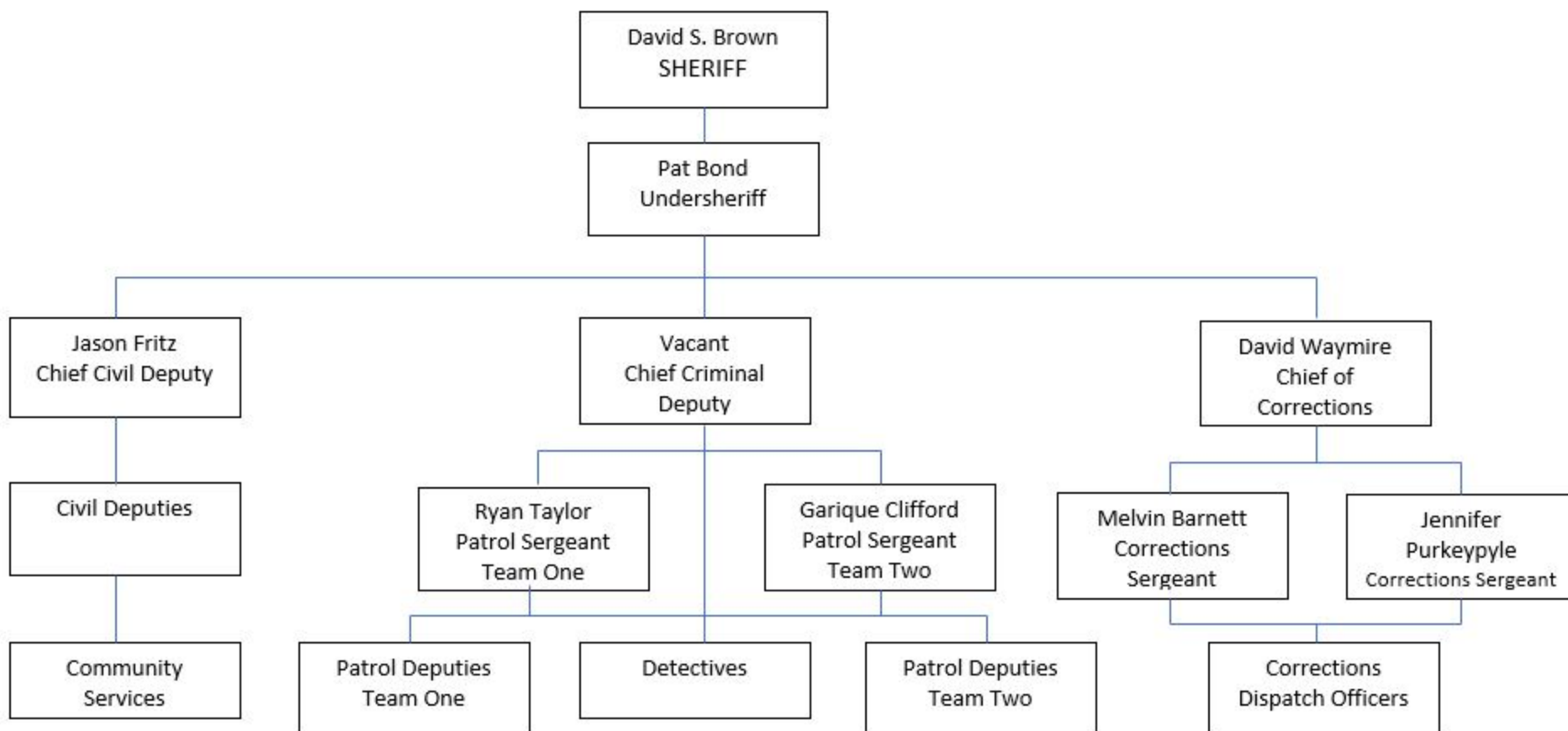
The State Archivist: Steve Excell

Org Chart SCSO.JPG



SKAMANIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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