

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

To set forth, for all members of the Spokane Police Department, an articulated code of ethics and a set of ethical canons and standards which encompass and describe expectations of behavior and conduct, both on and off duty.

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; 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 men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, 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 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 the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...law enforcement.

A. PREAMBLE

Whereas, members of the Spokane Police Department are vested with public trust which requires that they consistently demonstrate the highest degree of integrity and good moral character; and

Whereas, the need to maintain high standards of moral character, integrity, knowledge, and trust requires the establishment of a code of professional conduct and responsibility for members of the Spokane Police Department as a matter of the highest significance to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of this state; and

Whereas, the establishment of a code of professional conduct and responsibility of members of the Spokane Police Department, which includes canons of ethics and

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

minimum standards, requires the granting of authority to enforce these standards of professional conduct through disciplinary action as necessary for the protection of the health, welfare and safety of the public; therefore

Be it resolved that the need to maintain high standards of moral character, integrity, knowledge and trust requires that members of the Spokane Police Department establish and conform to a code of professional conduct and responsibility for members of the Spokane Police Department.

B. GENERAL STATEMENT

Members of the Spokane Police Department are granted a public trust which requires that they consistently demonstrate the highest degree of integrity. To be worthy of this public trust and to ensure that their professional conduct is above reproach, members of the Spokane Police Department must not only conform to a code of ethics, but must also abide by these canons of ethics and ethical standards which constitute this code of professional conduct and responsibility as a means of internal regulation. The essence of a profession is that it requires, in addition to prescribing a desired level of performance, established minimum standards of ethical conduct with prescribed rules for internal discipline to ensure compliance. Accordingly, this code of professional conduct and responsibility has been established for members of the Spokane Police Department.

Nothing in the code of professional conduct and responsibility for members of the Spokane Police Department is intended to limit or supersede any provisions of law relating to the duties and obligations of individuals or the consequences of a violation thereof. Whereas these rules specify certain conduct as unprofessional, this is not to be interpreted as approval of conduct not specifically mentioned.

C. CANONS OF ETHICS

CANON ONE

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall uphold the Constitution of the United States, the State Constitution, and all laws enacted or established pursuant to legally constituted authority.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 1.1:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall recognize that the primary responsibility of their profession and of the individual member is the protection of the people within the jurisdiction of the United States through upholding of their laws, the most important of which are the Constitution of the United States and the State Constitution and laws derived therefrom.

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Standard 1.2:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall be aware of the extent of the limitation of their authority in the enforcement of the law.

Standard 1.3:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall diligently study principles and new enactments of the laws they enforce.

Standard 1.4:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall be responsible for keeping abreast of current case law as applied to their duties.

Standard 1.5:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall endeavor to uphold the spirit of the law, as opposed to enforcing merely the letter of the law.

Standard 1.6:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall respect and uphold the dignity, human rights, and constitutional rights of all persons.

CANON TWO

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall be aware of and shall use proper and ethical procedures in discharging their official duties and responsibilities.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 2.1:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall be aware of their lawful authority to use that force reasonably necessary in securing compliance with their lawful enforcement duties.

Standard 2.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall truthfully, completely and impartially report, testify and present evidence in all matters of an official nature.

Standard 2.3:

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall follow legal practices in such areas as interrogation, arrest or detention, searches, seizures, use of informants, and collection and preservation of evidence.

Standard 2.4:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall follow the principles of integrity, fairness, and impartiality in connection with their duties.

CANON THREE

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall regard the discharge of their duties as a public trust and shall recognize their responsibilities to the people whom they are sworn to protect and serve.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 3.1:

Members of the Spokane Police Department, as professionals, shall maintain an awareness of those factors affecting their responsibilities.

Standard 3.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department, during their tour of duty, shall diligently devote their time and attention to the effective and professional performance of their responsibilities.

Standard 3.3:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall ensure that they are prepared for the effective and efficient undertaking of their assignment.

Standard 3.4:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall safely and effectively use equipment and material available to them.

Standard 3.5:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall be prepared for and shall respond effectively to the demands of their office.

Standard 3.6:

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Members of the Spokane Police Department, with due regard for compassion, shall maintain an objective and impartial attitude in official contacts.

Standard 3.7:

When requested, members will give their name and personnel number.

Standard 3.8:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not allow their personal convictions, beliefs, prejudices, or biases to interfere unreasonably with their official acts or decisions.

Standard 3.9:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall recognize that their allegiance is first to the people, then to their profession and the government entity or agency that employs them.

CANON FOUR

Members of the Spokane Police Department will so conduct their public and private lives that they exemplify the high standards of integrity, trust, and morality demanded of a member of the Spokane Police Department.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 4.1:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall refrain from consuming intoxicating beverages to the extent that it results in impairment which brings discredit upon the profession or their employing agency, or renders them unfit for their next tour of duty.

Standard 4.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not consume intoxicating beverages while on duty, except to the degree permitted in the performance of official duties.

Standard 4.3:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not use any narcotics, hallucinogens or any other controlled substance except when legally prescribed. When such controlled substances are prescribed, members shall notify their supervisors prior to reporting for duty.

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Standard 4.4:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall maintain a level of conduct in their personal and business affairs in keeping with the high standards of the Spokane Police Department.

Standard 4.5:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not undertake financial obligations which they know or reasonably should know they will be unable to meet, and shall pay all just debts when due.

Standard 4.6:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not engage in illegal political activities.

Standard 4.7:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not permit or authorize for personal gain the use of their name or photograph and official title identifying them as members of the Spokane Police Department in connection with testimonials or advertisements for any commodity, commercial enterprise, or commercial service which is not the product of the member involved.

Standard 4.8:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not engage in any activity which would create a conflict of interest or would be in violation of any law.

Standard 4.9:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner which does not discredit the law enforcement profession or the Spokane Police Department.

Standard 4.10:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not be disrespectful, insolent, mutinous or insubordinate in attitude, or conduct, or by disregarding a lawful order.

Standard 4.11:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall be courteous and respectful in their official dealings with the public, fellow members, superiors and subordinates.

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Standard 4.12:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not engage in any strike, work obstruction, or abstention, in whole or in part, from the full, faithful, and proper performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities, except as authorized by law.

Standard 4.13:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall maintain a neutral position with regard to the merits of any labor dispute, political protest, or other public demonstration while acting in any official capacity.

CANON FIVE

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall recognize that our society holds the freedom of the individual as a paramount precept which shall not be infringed upon without just, legal, and necessary cause.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 5.1:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall not restrict the freedom of individuals, whether by detention or arrest, except to the extent necessary to legally or reasonably apply the law.

Standard 5.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall recognize the rights of individuals to be free from capricious or arbitrary acts which deny or abridge their fundamental rights as guaranteed by law.

Standard 5.3:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall not use their official position to detain any individual or to restrict the freedom of any individual, except in the manner and means permitted or prescribed by law.

CANON SIX

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall assist in maintaining the integrity and competence of the Spokane Police Department.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Standard 6.1:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall recognize that every person in our society is entitled to professional, effective, and efficient law enforcement services.

Standard 6.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall perform their duties in such a manner as to discourage double standards.

Standard 6.3:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall conduct themselves so as to set exemplary standards of performance.

Standard 6.4:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall maintain the integrity of the Department through complete disclosure of those who violate any of these rules of conduct, violate any law, or conduct themselves in a manner which tends to discredit the law enforcement profession.

Standard 6.5:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall have responsibility for reporting to proper authorities any known information which would serve to disqualify candidates from transferring or entering the profession.

Standard 6.6:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall be responsible for maintaining a level of education and training that will keep them abreast of current techniques, concepts, laws, and requirements of the profession.

Standard 6.7:

Chief executive officers of the Spokane Police Department shall accept the responsibility of utilizing all available resources and the authority of their office to maintain the integrity of the Spokane Police Department and the competency of their members. These canons and ethical standards shall apply to all members of the Spokane Police Department regardless of position.

Standard 6.8:

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall assume a leadership role in furthering their profession by encouraging and assisting in the education and training of other members of the profession.

CANON SEVEN

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall cooperate with other officials and organizations that are using legal and ethical means to achieve the goals and objectives of the law enforcement profession.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 7.1:

Members of the Spokane Police Department, within legal and agency guidelines, shall share with personnel, both within and outside their agency, appropriate information that will facilitate the achievement of criminal justice goals or objectives.

Standard 7.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department, whether requested through appropriate channels or called upon individually, shall render needed assistance to any member in the proper performance of their duty.

Standard 7.3:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall, within legal and agency guidelines, endeavor to communicate to the people of their community the goals and objectives of the profession, and keep them apprised of conditions which threaten the maintenance of an ordered society.

CANON EIGHT

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall not compromise their integrity, nor that of their agency or profession, by accepting, giving, or soliciting any gratuity.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 8.1:

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

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

Standard 8.2:

Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall not consider their badge of office as a license designated to provide them with special favor or consideration.

CANON NINE

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall observe the confidentiality of information available to them through any source, as it relates to law enforcement.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Standard 9.1:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall be aware of and shall meticulously observe all legal restrictions on the release and dissemination of information.

Standard 9.2:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall treat as confidential the official business of the Department, and shall release or disseminate such information solely in an authorized manner.

Standard 9.3:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall treat as confidential that information confided to them personally. They shall disclose such information as required in the proper performance of their duties.

Standard 9.4:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall neither disclose nor use for their personal interest any confidential information acquired by them in the course of their official duties.

Standard 9.5:

Members of the Spokane Police Department shall treat as confidential all matters relating to investigations, internal affairs, and personnel.

Spokane Police Department

Policy Manual

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Vision of the Spokane Police Department

To become the "safest city of our size in America"

Mission of the Spokane Police Department

Working together to build a safe community.

Values of the Spokane Police Department

SERVICE-SPD strives to provide efficient, effective, and courteous service.

PRIDE-SPD is proud to serve the community through honorable and professional policing.

DEDICATION-SPD is dedicated to results through accountability and leadership.