



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

**CRAIG N. MEIDL**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-045 OPO Number: 17-20

Date of Complaint: 8/21/2017

Allegation: Demeanor and Harassment

Chain of Command Finding: Mediation

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The officer responded to the complainant's house for a Harassment call where the complainant was a reported victim. During the interaction with the complainant, the responding officer spoke with her about her prescription for methadone and warned her about driving under the influence.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the officer refused to believe that the complainant had been prescribed methadone for chronic pain management. The officer threatened to arrest her for DUI every time she drove, despite the complainant not currently driving. The complainant felt like she was being singled out and treated unfairly.

### INVESTIGATION

The shift-level investigation included a review of available documentation, including the officer's bodyworn camera footage during the incident. In the video, it was clear that the officer was not aware of the use of methadone for chronic pain and the complainant was trying to explain it to her. The supervisor also did a little research about methadone and confirmed it is used for chronic pain as the complainant indicated.

When the supervisor contacted the complainant for an interview, the complainant explained she had time to think about what happened and wanted to explain her perspective. She told the supervisor about her medical history and why she had been prescribed methadone. The supervisor told the complainant that he was not aware of methadone's use for chronic pain before reading her complaint. The complainant said she did not want the officer to get in trouble for not knowing, but she would be very pleased if patrol officers could be educated on the various uses of methadone. She did not want to move forward on the complaint.

The supervisor provided individual training to the patrol officer. He also consulted with the Police Ombudsman about educating patrol officers. The supervisor suggested that he would email all patrol

sergeants and ask them to speak with their teams about it. He also volunteered to conduct training at the upcoming Sergeant training. The Ombudsman agreed with the training for patrol officers.

#### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Police Ombudsman believed that while this case was not a traditional mediation, the objectives of mediation were met in this case. The OPO contacted the complainant to confirm that she did not want any further mediation steps taken. Internal Affairs closed the case out as a completed mediation and the supervisor conducted the training.