



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-029 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 5/7/2018

Allegation: Policy Violation 804: Care of Property and Standard Violation 2.3

Chain of Command Finding: Sustained

Final Discipline: Suspension

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

A Spokane Police Department detective misplaced evidence for a case.

### COMPLAINT

Internal Affairs opened an investigation into the employee's handling of the property. The investigation focused on the following allegations:

- Policy 804 Violation: Care and maintain custody for all evidence.
- Standard 2.3 Violation: 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.

### INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs investigators reviewed available documentation about the case and interviewed the involved detective, SPD property manager, and court clerk. The investigation showed that the detective had handled important property in a careless manner. The detective checked out four items of evidence from Property for a court case in February 2017. After court, the detective placed the items in the trunk of his car and forgot about them. In May 2018, another detective requested the items and discovered they were missing. The involved detective searched his vehicle and found the items in his trunk, still sealed with evidence tape. The items had been in his trunk for over a year.

The chain of command review determined that the detective had violated policy with his handling of property.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegations were determined to be Sustained. The officer received a one-day suspension as a sanction.