



SHERIFF

CHRISTINA CORPUS

SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TRAINING BULLETIN

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SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL SHALL UNDERSTAND THE PROVISIONS OF THE POLICY MANUAL PERTAINING TO USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.

Sworn personnel must have a complete understanding of Sheriff's Office policy regarding use of social media. Sworn personnel shall be familiar with the policy and what it contains. Sheriff's Office Policy Manual Policy 337 establishes the Sheriff's Office policy regarding use of social media. The following are excerpts from that policy. All affected personnel must be familiar with the entire Policy as stated in the Sheriff's Office Policy Manual.

SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to ensure that any use of social media on behalf of the Sheriff's Office is consistent with the Office mission. This policy does not address all aspects of social media use. Specifically, it does not address:

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Court Security and Transportation Bureau



FROM THE TRAINING MANAGER

The Training Unit is seeking motivated Correctional Officers and Deputy Sheriffs wishing to volunteer as a First Aid/CPR Instructor. If you're interested, please advise your supervisor. Upon your supervisor's approval, the Training Unit will work to secure you a seat in an upcoming POST certified instructor course. Upon completion of the course, graduates will be expected to train staff members as needed in support of POST and STC compliance mandates.

We are also seeking Fair and Impartial Policing instructors. For those former instructors that were certified in 2019, please consider virtual recertification in [April](#) or [June](#).

If you have any questions, reach out to us at Sheriffs_TrainingUnit@smcgov.org.

- Sgt. Jason Leone

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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- ✓ Personal use of social media by Sheriff's employees (see the Lexipol policies Employee Speech, Expression and Social Networking Policy & Standards of Conduct & Uniform Regulations).
- ✓ Use of social media in personnel processes (see Lexipol Policy Recruitment and Selection).

SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING BULLETIN

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- ✓ 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).

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 San Mateo County Sheriff's Office website or social networking services.

POLICY

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office may use social media as a method of effectively informing the public about San Mateo County Sheriff's Office services, issues, investigations and other relevant events. San Mateo County Sheriff's Office will ensure that the use or

access of social media is done in a manner that protects the constitutional rights of all.

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.

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.

Examples of appropriate content include:

- ✓ Announcements.
- ✓ Tips and information related to crime prevention.
- ✓ Investigative requests for information.
- ✓ Requests that ask the community to engage in projects that are relevant to the office mission.
- ✓ Real-time safety information that is related to in-progress crimes, geographical warnings or disaster information.
- ✓ Traffic information.
- ✓ Press releases.
- ✓ Recruitment of personnel.

INCIDENT-SPECIFIC USE

In instances of active incidents where speed, accuracy and frequent updates are paramount (e.g., crime alerts, public safety 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.

PROHIBITED CONTENT

Content that is prohibited from posting includes, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Content that is abusive, discriminatory, inflammatory or sexually explicit.
- ✓ Any information that violates individual rights, including confidentiality and/or privacy rights and those provided under state, federal or local laws.
- ✓ Any information that could compromise an ongoing investigation.
- ✓ Any information that could tend to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office or its members.
- ✓ Any information that could compromise the safety and security of office operations, members of the Office, victims, suspects or the public.
- ✓ Any content posted for personal use.
- ✓ 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.

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 department members directly. ☆

A VEHICLE TOW INVENTORY SEARCH WAS JUSTIFIED AFTER THE SUSPECT DROVE HIS VEHICLE INTO A STRANGER'S DRIVEWAY AFTER A PEACE OFFICER INITIATED A TRAFFIC STOP.

While on patrol, a deputy sheriff noticed a truck with a partially obscured license plate. The deputy activated his lights to effect a traffic stop. The driver abruptly turned onto a dead-end street and then accelerated to the end of the road. About 30 to 45 seconds after the deputy activated his lights, the driver drove into the driveway of a home and got out of his truck. The deputy believed at that point that the driver was attempting to flee. The deputy confronted the driver at gunpoint.

The deputy told the driver to turn around, put his hands up, and kneel down. The driver complied. He asked the deputy why he had been pulled over.

When a second deputy arrived, he handcuffed the driver. The driver told the deputies that he had parked in the driveway of "a friend" and said that his license was expired. In fact, the driver did not know anyone who lived in the residence when he parked in the driveway. He protested that he had not seen the deputy's vehicle's lights and did not know that he was being stopped. The driver said he was not from the area.

The deputies told the driver that they were going to tow his truck because he did not have a valid license. They also told the driver that they were going to conduct an inventory search

of the truck. The driver told the deputies that he wanted to have a friend come and get his truck. The deputies refused the driver's request.

Before the deputies started the search of the truck, one of the deputies spoke to the owner of the residence where the truck was parked. The resident confirmed that he did not know the driver and he told the deputies that he wanted the truck removed from his driveway. During the inventory search, a deputy found a loaded handgun under the driver's seat. Anderson was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm. From the time the first deputy observed the obscured license plate until he called dispatch to report finding the gun, approximately seven minutes had elapsed.

As a deputy transported the driver to jail, another deputy remained at the scene to complete the requirements of his department's policy manual, which provides a standard administrative procedure for an inventory search. According to the manual, when a deputy stores or impounds a vehicle, the deputy shall complete two CHP 180 forms, which include an inventory of personal property and the signature, date and time of the arrival of the tow truck driver. The deputy completed most of the CHP 180 form, including noting existing body damage to the vehicle, but failed to list on the inventory two pairs of sunglasses, a watch, a box of tools, and bottle of cologne.

In the case of United States v. Anderson, the Ninth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals ruled that the inventory search was justified incident to a lawful tow of the vehicle.

In its written decision, the Court first stated, "The Fourth Amendment protects the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures and provides that 'no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause.' The Fourth Amendment's 'essential purpose' is to impose a standard of 'reasonableness' upon the exercise of discretion by government officials, including law enforcement agents, in order to safeguard the

MISSION STATEMENT

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to protecting lives and property and is committed to providing the highest level of professional law enforcement and correctional services. We pledge to promote public trust through fair and impartial policing and will treat all persons with dignity, compassion, and respect.

COMMITMENT

We are committed to protecting life and property and preserving the public peace by acting professionally, with integrity, and without prejudice, even in the most challenging circumstances, when no one is watching, and on and off duty. We hold others accountable to the same standards and challenge any inappropriate behavior.

INTEGRITY

We are committed to ethics, equity, and excellence. We understand that making a difference in the quality of life is an opportunity that policing and correctional services provides. We provide excellent service by respecting and upholding the rights and freedoms of all people in all our interactions, free from bias or stereotype, seeking to understand and help others by making a difference.

COMPASSION

We understand that sometimes we interact with the community during their most trying times. We are committed to treating all people with compassion, empathy, and respect; going the extra mile to ensure others feel safe, supported, included, engaged, and valued; standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves; and valuing others' life experiences.

INNOVATION

We promote an environment that encourages continuous improvement and innovation. We strive to be leaders in modern policing, acting on input and feedback from our communities and colleagues; constantly implementing best-practices; and exploring alternative solutions to current issues.

privacy and security of individuals against arbitrary invasions. The Fourth Amendment's reasonableness standard is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application, and each case must be decided on its own facts."

The Court continued, "As a general rule, the government must obtain a warrant based on probable cause in order to conduct a search, but there are exceptions to this requirement. The Supreme Court evaluates the reasonableness of a warrantless search by balancing its intrusion on the individual's Fourth Amendment interests against its promotion of legitimate governmental interests."

The Court then stated, "One well-defined exception to the warrant requirement is the inventory search. This exception arises under the community caretaking exception to the warrant requirement for seizure of property. Under the community caretaking exception, police officers may impound vehicles that jeopardize public

safety and the efficient movement of vehicular traffic. The reasonableness of the impoundment depends on whether the impoundment fits within the authority of police to seize and remove from the streets vehicles impeding traffic or threatening public safety and convenience. Impoundment serves some 'community caretaking' purpose if a vehicle is parked illegally, poses a safety hazard, or is vulnerable to vandalism or theft. For example, a community caretaking purpose exists where a vehicle is blocking parking lot spaces in a manner that could impede emergency services to a building and neither the driver nor any passenger is legally able to move it. Impoundment is also justified where a vehicle is parked in the middle of the street, left in a public parking lot without anyone to retrieve it, or totaled and lying in a ditch."

The Court continued, "Conversely, an officer cannot reasonably order an impoundment

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in situations where the location of the vehicle does not create any need for the police to protect the vehicle or to avoid a hazard to other drivers.” One such location is where a vehicle is parked in its owner’s driveway, even though the owner drove without a valid driver’s license. Nor is there a valid community caretaking purpose justifying impoundment where a vehicle is legally parked in and there is no evidence that it would be susceptible to theft or vandalism.”

The Court then stated, “Once a vehicle has been legally impounded, the police may conduct an inventory search, as long as it conforms to the standard procedures of the local police department. An inventory search of a vehicle is reasonable under the Fourth Amendment because the government’s legitimate interests in conducting such a search outweigh the individual’s privacy interests in the contents of his car. . . . Because inventory searches are non-criminal in nature, they need not be justified by probable cause, which is peculiarly related to criminal investigations, not routine, noncriminal procedures. The probable-cause approach is unhelpful when analysis centers upon the reasonableness of routine administrative caretaking functions, particularly when no claim is made that the protective procedures are a subterfuge for criminal investigations.”

The Court further stated, “Even if the

officers have some discretion in conducting an inventory search, the search remains reasonable so long as that discretion is exercised according to standard criteria and on the basis of something other than suspicion of evidence of criminal activity. While inventory procedures do not define constitutional rights, they do assist courts to determine whether an inventory search is legitimate, as opposed to pretextual, because a search that materially deviates from established procedure may raise the inference that it was merely an excuse to rummage for evidence. . . . Reasonable police regulations relating to inventory procedures administered in good faith satisfy the Fourth Amendment, even if the police implementation of standardized inventorying procedure is somewhat slipshod. . . . In sum, once the government has established that the vehicle in question was impounded for a valid community caretaking purpose, an inventory search does not violate an individual’s Fourth Amendment rights if: (1) it is conducted pursuant to a standard policy (even if compliance with the policy is less than perfect); and (2) it is performed in good faith (meaning it is not conducted solely for the purpose of obtaining evidence of a crime). When the inventory search meets these criteria, the government’s legitimate interests outweigh the intrusion on the individual’s privacy interests.” ☆

FROM THE RANGEMASTER’S OFFICE

Employee Wellness

Law Enforcement is an honorable and fulfilling profession that exposes us to many experiences, some good, some not so good. The not so good experiences affect us all differently. If times get tough or emotionally taxing, do you know how to reach out for help?

The Sheriff’s Office has several resources to support our wellness. The newest resource at our disposal is the Cordico Wellness app. Cordico is an app for your smart phone with personalized resources for Sheriff’s Office staff. (For information on how to download and log into the correct app, refer to Sheriff

Corpus' recent memorandum, e-mailed by Gina Sheridan on 02/09/23.) The Cordico Wellness app is designed so we and our families can use it as often as needed and it's entirely confidential. There are numerous resources available through the app.

The Peer Support Group is comprised of sworn and civilian staff volunteers. They are available and trained to listen and support in a confidential environment. You can reach out to Peer Support through the Cordico app, or by calling [REDACTED]. If you're ever involved in a critical incident, Peer Support and the Program for Resilience in Modern Emergency Response (PRiMER) organizes critical incident debriefs. These debriefs are intended to help us process all the potential physical and psychological effects that can occur after a critical incident. Reach out to any Peer Support Member for information on critical incident debriefs.

Lastly, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is another great resource for us. Over the past few years, the PRiMER doctors have gone to great lengths vetting all EAP clinicians to ensure they are experienced in working with first responders. Contacting EAP ensures culturally competent clinical help for us, at no cost. To contact Claremont EAP, call [REDACTED] or visit: [REDACTED]. (Group/Employer: County of San Mateo).

The moral...we have resources available to us. It's up to us to use them. Our strength lies not only in our willingness to help others, but also in our willingness to ask for help. After all, we can't effectively help others if we aren't healthy ourselves. Stay safe out there and be well.

- Guest contributor Sgt. Michael Tabak