

INVESTIGATIVE REGULATIONS

Directive: 7.8

- A. Failure to Follow Department Procedures for the Handling of Evidence, Personal Effects, and all other Property Taken into Custody.

Members of the department will frequently have occasion to seize evidence and/or found property. It is important that members understand the distinction between those classes of item. Any officer experiencing difficulty with this distinction should refer to Directive 6.12 entitled "PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING EVIDENCE AND FOUND PROPERTY". The intent of this section is to ensure that evidence is handled properly after it has been collected. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class D violation.

- B. Command of a Crime Scene

At the scene of any crime, accident, or other police incident, the ranking officer present shall assume command and direction of all police personnel present. This shall occur to assure the most orderly and efficient accomplishment of the required police task. When two or more officers of the same rank are present and one is assigned to the investigative detail that will follow up the investigation, that officer will be in charge. This provision is intended to provide for the coordination of the efforts of all members who may be assigned to the incident. It is incumbent upon the ranking officer to become acquainted with the facts and ensure that appropriate action is being taken, or is initiated, by those responsible under his command. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class E violation.

- C. Instituting Criminal Investigation Without Authority

Members of the department will not engage in a covert criminal investigation without giving prior notice of his intent to a competent authority. This regulation is not intended to preclude an officer's intervention of a serious life-threatening felony situation; rather, it is designed to ensure that members will not engage in acts such a soliciting a prostitute or purchasing drugs without prior authorization.

This activity is prohibited both on duty and off duty. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class E violation.

D. Failure to Submit Reports On Time

Members of the department will promptly submit such reports as required through the performance of their duties or by order of a higher competent authority. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class E violation.

E. Failure to Conduct Proper/Complete Investigation

Members of the department will devote their best effort to the investigation and solution of criminal cases. In every investigation, members of the department will ensure that their actions are complete, thorough, and proper. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class E violation.

F. Failure to Thoroughly Search for Evidence

Members of the department are to collect, preserve, identify, and secure all evidence. Evidence includes those items that can be used to prove that a certain offense did occur and that a certain individual was responsible for the offense as outlined in Directive 6.12 entitled "PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING EVIDENCE AND FOUND PROPERTY". The intent of this section is to ensure that all evidence is located at the scene of the crime. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class E violation.

G. Testifying for the Defendant

Members shall not appear, without prior written approval of the Chief of Police or his representative, as a character witness for any defendant in a criminal trial or inquiry. Any member subpoenaed to testify for the defense in any trial or hearing or against the City or department in any hearing or trial shall notify the Chief of Police via chain of command upon receipt of the subpoena. He shall also notify the appropriate governmental authority. Violation of this regulation will result in disciplinary action as specified for a class F violation.