

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	REF. NR-95-C-13	PAGE 1 of 4
SUBJECT: Code of Conduct Policy	EFFECTIVE DATE: 05-30-1995	
Michael R. Styler, Executive Director	REVISION DATE: 07-11-2012	

I. PURPOSE

To establish a Department of Natural Resources code of conduct for law enforcement personnel to follow.

II. POLICY

All Department peace officers will be wholly aware of the ethical responsibilities of their position and must strive constantly to live up to the highest possible standards of professional policing.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Primary Responsibility

An officer acts as an official representative of the State of Utah Department of Natural Resources who is required and trusted to work within the law. The officer's power and duties are conferred by statute. The fundamental duties of an officer include: 1) serving the community, 2) safeguarding lives and property, 3) protecting the innocent, 4) keeping the peace, 5) carrying out the mission of their assignment according to law, and 6) ensuring the rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

B. Performance of Duties

An officer shall perform all duties impartially without favor, affection or ill will and without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political belief or aspiration. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity. Officers will never allow personal feelings, animosities or friendships to influence official conduct. Laws will be enforced appropriately and courteously and in carrying out that responsibility. Officers will strive to attain maximum cooperation from the public. They

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will conduct themselves in appearance and in such a manner as to inspire confidence and respect for the position of public trust they hold.

C. Discretion

A peace officer will use responsibly the discretion vested in the position and exercise it within the law. The principles of reasonableness will guide the officer's determination and the officer will consider all the surrounding circumstances in determining whether any legal action could be taken. Consistent and wise use of discretion based on professional policing competence will do much to preserve good relationships and retain the confidence of the public. There can be difficulty in choosing between conflicting courses of action. It is important to remember that a tiny word of advice rather than arrest, which may be correct and appropriate, can be a more effective means of achieving a desired end.

D. Use of Force

A peace officer will never employ unnecessary force or violence and will use only such force in the discharge of duty as is reasonable in all circumstances.

E. Confidentiality

Whatever a peace officer see's, hears or learns of which is of a confidential nature will be kept secret unless the performance of duty or legal provision requires otherwise. Members of the public have a right to security and privacy. Information obtained about them must not be improperly divulged.

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F. Integrity

A peace officer will not engage in acts of corruption or bribery nor condone such acts by any law enforcement personnel.

The public demands that the integrity of peace officers must, therefore, avoid any conduct that might compromise the integrity and, thus, undercut the public confidence in a law enforcement agency. Officers will refuse to accept any gifts, presents, subscriptions, favors, gratuities or promises that could be interpreted as reason to cause the officer to refrain from performing official responsibilities honestly and within the law. Officers must not receive private or special advantage from their official status. Respect from the public cannot be bought; it can only be earned and cultivated.

G. Cooperation with other officers and agencies.

Officers will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice. It is imperative that our sworn officers assist colleagues fully and completely with respect and consideration at all times.

H. Personal/Professional Capabilities

A peace officer will be responsible for their own standards or professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve their level of knowledge and competence. Through study and experience, a sworn officer can acquire the high level of knowledge and competence that is essential for the efficient and effective performance of duty. The acquisition of knowledge is a never-ending process of personal and professional development that should be pursued constantly.

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I. Private Life

Peace officers will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to their divisions, the Department of Natural Resources or themselves. An officer's character and conduct while off-duty must also be exemplary, thus, maintaining a position of respect in the community in which they live and serve. An officer's personal behavior must be beyond reproach.

J. Patriotic Courtesy

On all public occasions, a peace officer of the department in uniform shall salute the national colors and the playing of the national anthem with a hand salute in a military manner.

K. Use of department office facilities for receipt of personal mail.

Peace officers, except trainees and those assigned state housing, are prohibited from using state facilities for the receipt of personal mail, subscriptions, etc.

L. Use of department's or division's name for fund raising.

Members and organizations affiliated with the department and its divisions are prohibited from authorizing or using the departments or divisions name for soliciting contributions or other fund raising activities for any purpose without the express written permission of the Department Executive Director.