

# Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

*“Whenever men unite to form a community, a nation, a religious body or a profession, they set down in writing those fundamental principles which will best guide them in their common effort. Examples of such written codes of personal and organizational conduct are the Ten Commandments, the U.S. Constitution, the state criminal codes and the Law Enforcement Code of ethics. These documents are important not only for the guidance they offer but also a standard against which we measure our work and attitude.” -- International Association of Chiefs of Police*



As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; 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 men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; 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 in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in 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, 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 will accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession: Law Enforcement.

-- Drafted and Adopted in 1957