



Division of Police Code of Ethics



All Division employees shall follow the Division of Police Code of Ethics. The code of ethics identifies the attitudes and behaviors appropriate to the integration of the mission of the Columbus Division of Police. The following ethical characteristics are applicable when serving the public as well as working with each other.

1. Dedication

- Personal sacrifice for the greater good
- Upholding the responsibility accepted
- Willingness to serve others
- Professional, reasoned, and unbiased conduct

2. Courage

- Moral
 - Willingness to do what is right even in the face of criticism
 - Ability to stand up for unpopular beliefs in the face of the majority
 - Strength to make the right decision, not just the easy one
- Physical
 - Commitment to placing the well-being of others before one's own
 - Readiness to assist the public and fellow employees while recognizing physical risks

3. Honesty and trustworthiness

- Truthfulness in all matters
- Dependability
- Self-discipline

4. Respect for human dignity

- Compassion and empathy when dealing with people, regardless of their circumstances or social status
- Fair, equal, civil treatment of all people regardless of their station in life or personal conduct
- Application of the golden rule

5. High moral standards

- Adherence to a high standard of moral conduct, independent of the requirements of management or the possibilities of repercussions from co-workers
- Exhibition of honest, ethical behavior at all times
- Resistance to the temptation of corruption for either monetary or personal gain

6. Work ethic

- Attention to duty and no abuse of sick or injury leave
- Completion of all tasks to the best of one's abilities at all times
- Dedication and self-motivation
- Maturity and professionalism demonstrated by putting forth the effort without the need for direct supervision

7. Physical and mental fitness and competence

- Physical and mental ability to complete the task at hand

8. Perseverance

- Willingness to follow through no matter how daunting a job or investigation
- "Drive" to bring a project or investigation to a successful conclusion
- Ability to keep working in spite of physical and mental exhaustion

9. Sobriety in the workplace

- No tolerance for substance abuse

10. Respect for law

- Obedience to the laws one is empowered to enforce
- Willingness to apply to oneself the same standards applied to others

11. Empowerment

- Allowing others the latitude to do their job and the opportunity to succeed, realizing that short-term failure can lead to long-term success
- Granting authority commensurate with responsibility
- Making common sense an integral part of decision making

12. Loyalty to duty

- Loyalty to the oath of office
- Loyalty to the missions accepted by working for the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Police