



Norwich Police Department POLICY 160.01

Section: 100 Administration	Effective Date: 1, Jan 2017 (re-issue)	PAGES: 4
Subsection	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	
60- Conduct	Rescinds all previous Written Directives Systems Policies, General orders, OP-orders, and memorandums	
Title	CT State Accreditation standard	
160.01 Code of Ethics		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to give members of the Norwich Police Department (“Department”) ethical guidelines in the performance of their duties. Law Enforcement Officers hold an honored position in the community and must at all times remain professional, courageous and fair in all incidents.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that all members be guided by and abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

III. LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

“As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental obligation 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 which does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will maintain courageously 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 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 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 gratitude's."

"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 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 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."

A. Primary Responsibility of Job

The primary responsibility of the police service and of the individual officer, is the protection of the people of the United States through the upholding of their laws; chief among these is the Constitution of the United States and its amendments. The law enforcement officer always represents the whole of the community and its legally expressed will and is never the arm of any political party or clique.

B. Limitations of Authority

The first duty of law enforcement officers as upholders of the law is to know its bounds upon them in enforcing it. Because they represent the legal will of the community, be it local, state, or federal, they must be aware of the limitations and prescriptive which the people, through law, have placed upon them. They must recognize the genius of the American system of government, which gives to no person, groups of persons, or institution absolute power; and they must insure that they, as prime defenders of that system, do not pervert its character.

C. Duty to be Familiar with the Law and with Responsibilities of Self and Other Public Officials

Law enforcement officers shall diligently apply themselves to the study of the principles of the law, which they are sworn to uphold. They shall make certain of their responsibilities in the particulars of their enforcement, seeking aid from their superiors in matters of technicality or principle when these are not clear to them; they will make special effort to fully understand their relationship to other public officials, including other law enforcement agencies, particularly on matters of jurisdiction, both geographically and substantively.

D. Utilization of Proper Means to Gain Proper Ends

Law enforcement officers shall be mindful of their responsibility to pay strict heed to the selection of means in discharging the duties of their office. Violations of law or disregard for the public safety and property on the part of an officer are intrinsically wrong; they are self-defeating in that they instill in the public mind a like disposition. The

employment of illegal means, no matter how worthy the end, is certain to encourage disrespect for the law and its officers.

E. Cooperation with Public Officials in the Discharge of their Authorized Duties

Law enforcement officers shall cooperate fully with other public officials in the discharge of authorized duties, regardless of party affiliation or personal prejudice. They shall be meticulous, however, in assuring themselves of the propriety under the law of such actions and shall guard against the use of their office or person, whether knowingly or unknowingly in any improper or illegal action. In any situation open to question, they shall seek authority from their superior officers, giving them a full report of the proposed service or action.

F. Private Conduct

Law enforcement officers shall be mindful of their special identification by the public as upholders of the law. Laxity of conduct or manner in private life, expressing either disrespect for the law or seeking to gain special privilege, cannot but reflect upon the police officer and the police service. The community and the service require that the law enforcement officer lead the life of a decent and honorable person. Following the career of a police officer gives no person special prerequisites. It does give the satisfaction and price of following and furthering the unbroken tradition of safeguarding the American republic. The officer who reflects upon this tradition will not degrade it. Rather, they will so conduct their private life that the public will regard them as an example of stability, fidelity, and morality.

G. Conduct toward the Public

Law enforcement officers, mindful of their responsibility to the whole community, shall deal with individuals of the community in a manner calculated to instill respect for its laws and its police service. Law enforcement officers shall conduct their official life in a manner such as will inspire confidence and trust. Thus, they will be neither overbearing nor subservient, as no individual citizen has an obligation to stand in awe of them nor a right to command them. The officers shall give service where they can and require compliance with the law. They will do neither from personal preference or prejudice but rather as duly appointed officers of the law discharging their sworn obligation.

H. Conduct in Arresting and Dealing with Law Violators

Law enforcement officers shall use their powers of arrest strictly in accordance with the law and with due regard to the rights of the citizens concerned. Their office gives them no right to prosecute the violator or to mete out punishment for the offense. They shall, at all times, have a clear appreciation of their responsibilities and limitations regarding detention of the violator; they shall conduct themselves in such a manner as will minimize the possibility of having to use force. To this end they shall cultivate a dedication to the service of the people and the equitable upholding of their laws, whether in the handling of law violators or in dealing with the law-abiding.

I. Gifts and Favors

Law enforcement officers, representing government, bear the heavy responsibility of maintaining, in their own conduct, the honor and integrity of all government institutions. They shall, therefore, guard against placing themselves in a position in which any person can expect special consideration or in which the public can reasonably assume that special consideration is being given. Thus, they should be firm in refusing gifts, favors, or gratuities, large or small, which can, in the public mind be interpreted as capable of influencing their judgment in the discharge of their duties.

J. Presentation of Evidence

Law enforcement officers shall be concerned equally in the prosecution of the wrongdoer and the defense of the innocent. They shall ascertain what constitutes evidence and shall present such evidence impartially and without malice. In so doing they will ignore social, political, and all other distinctions among the persons involved, strengthening the tradition of the reliability and integrity of an officer's word. Law enforcement officers shall take special pains to increase their perception and skill of observation, mindful that in many situations theirs is the sole impartial testimony to the facts of a case.

K. Attitude toward Profession

Law enforcement officers shall regard the discharge of their duties as a public trust and recognize their responsibility as public servants. By diligent study and sincere attention to self-improvement, they shall strive to make the best possible application of science to the solution of crime and, in the field of human relationships, strive for effective leadership and public influence in matters affecting public safety. They shall appreciate the importance and responsibility of their office; hold police work to be an honorable profession rendering valuable service to their community and their country.

By Authority of:_____

Patrick J. Daley.

Chief of Police