

Reporting of Arrests, Convictions and Court Orders

1005.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the notification requirements and procedures that members must follow when certain arrests, convictions and court orders restrict their ability to perform the official duties and responsibilities of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. This policy will also describe the notification requirements and procedures that certain retired deputies must follow when an arrest, conviction or court order disqualifies them from possessing a firearm.

1005.2 POLICY

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office requires disclosure of member arrests, convictions and certain court orders to maintain the high standards, ethics and integrity in its workforce, and to ensure compatibility with the duties and responsibilities of the Office.

1005.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONVICTIONS AND COURT ORDERS

Federal and Maryland law prohibits individuals convicted of certain offenses and individuals subject to certain court orders from lawfully possessing firearms. Such convictions and court orders often involve allegations of the use or attempted use of force, or threatened use of a weapon on any individual in a domestic relationship (e.g., spouse, cohabitant, parent, child) (18 USC § 922; Md. Code PS § 5-133).

All members and retired deputies with identification cards issued by the Office are responsible for ensuring that they have not been disqualified from possessing firearms by any such conviction or court order, and shall promptly report any such conviction or court order to a supervisor, as provided in this policy.

1005.4 OTHER CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND COURT ORDERS

COMAR 12.04.01.04 prohibits any individual who is ineligible under federal or Maryland law to possess or use a handgun from receiving or maintaining a deputy certification through the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC). Additionally, Md. Code PS § 3-107 and Md. Code PS § 3-212 require the termination and decertification of a deputy who is convicted of a felony, perjury, or other misdemeanor related to truthfulness.

While legal restrictions may or may not be imposed by statute or by the courts upon conviction of any criminal offense, criminal conduct by members of this office may be inherently in conflict with law enforcement duties and the public trust, and shall be reported as provided in this policy.

1005.5 REPORTING

All members and all retired deputies with identification cards issued by the Office shall immediately notify their supervisors (retired deputies should immediately notify the Shift Commander or the Office of Professional Responsibilities) in writing of any past or current criminal detention, arrest,

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charge, or conviction in any state or foreign country, regardless of whether the matter was dropped or rejected, is currently pending or on appeal, and regardless of the penalty or sentence, if any.

All members and all retired deputies with identification cards issued by the Office shall immediately notify their supervisors (retired deputies should immediately notify the Shift Commander or the Office of Professional Responsibilities) in writing if they become the subject of a domestic violence-related order or any court order that prevents the member or retired deputy from possessing a firearm or requires suspension or revocation of applicable MPTSC.

Any member whose criminal arrest, conviction or court order restricts or prohibits that member from fully and properly performing the member's duties, including carrying a firearm, may be suspended and disciplined. This includes but is not limited to being placed on administrative leave, reassignment and/or termination.

Any effort to remove such disqualification or restriction shall remain entirely the responsibility of the member, on the member's own time and at the member's own expense.

Any member failing to provide prompt written notice pursuant to this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Retired deputies may have their identification cards rescinded or modified, as may be appropriate (see the Retiree Concealed Firearms Policy).

1005.5.1 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Office shall report arrests or convictions to the MPTSC for possible suspension and revocation of any applicable certification (Md. Code PS § 3-212).