

OREGON DPSST
ETHICS BULLETIN

Volume No. 26



The Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (BPSST) has the legislative mandate to establish and enforce the physical, mental, and moral fitness standards for all law enforcement officers, telecommunicators and emergency medical dispatchers in the state.

This requirement also defines the procedure for the Department and Board to use when denying or revoking certification of an officer, telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher who has fallen below the moral fitness standards.

The Ethics Bulletin is published to provide insight into the types of misconduct that could result in revocation or denial of certification. The following cases of misconduct resulted in **revocation and denial** of certifications by DPSST in **September 2005**.

Case 1

Officer A was convicted of Initiating a False Report, and received a diversion from the court. In this instance, Officer A reported her vehicle stolen when she knew her boyfriend, who did not have a driver's license, had driven her vehicle and had become involved in two hit and run accidents. Later, Officer A was then arrested for Interfering with a Peace Officer. In this case, Officer A interfered with the arrest of a suspect during an incident in which a police officer was assaulted. Due to budget cuts, this case was not prosecuted. This case went before the Corrections Policy Committee under violation of the established moral fitness guidelines. The Committee recommended revocation and the Board affirmed the Committee's recommendation. Officer A requested a hearing to contest the revocation and prior to a hearing, Officer A signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification. Officer A's conduct ended her 3-year career.

Officer A's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked.

Case 2

Officer B resigned after an internal investigation revealed that he had an inappropriate relationship with an inmate that resulted in a physical relationship after the inmate was released on parole. When Officer B was advised that his case was to be presented to the Corrections Policy Committee, he signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification. Officer B's conduct ended his 4-year career.

Officer B's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked.

Case 3

Officer C was discharged for cause from his agency. An internal investigation had revealed that, while on duty, he made an obscene gesture during the filming of a news broadcast. He was then untruthful during the investigation. As a result of negotiated discipline between the union and the employer, Officer C was required to write a letter of apology. Officer C refused to apologize and was terminated. Officer C's conduct ended his 6-year career.

Officer C's Basic Telecommunicator & Emergency Medical Dispatcher Certifications were Revoked.

PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

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September 2005

Case 4

Officer D resigned in lieu of termination and voluntarily relinquished his DPSST certification. In this case, Officer D's son was involved in a motor vehicle accident and believing that his insurance rates would increase, Officer D lied and told the insurance company that he was the driver. Officer D's conduct ended his 5-year career. Officer D signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification.

Officer D's Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Police Certifications were Revoked.

Case 5

Officer E resigned after an internal investigation revealed that he had smoked meth, while off duty, and had provided his personal cell phone number to several inmates for the purpose of smuggling contraband into the prison facility. When Officer E was advised that his case was to be presented to the Corrections Policy Committee, he signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification. Officer E's conduct ended his 3-year career.

Officer E's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked.

Case 6

Officer F was arrested and convicted of Menacing. According to the arrest report, Officer F began a series of aggressive contacts toward an individual who had an affair with his wife. Officer F did not heed warnings from the police; his behavior ultimately culminated in an incident in which Officer F brandished a handgun and threatened the victim's life. Officer F pled guilty and received a Conditional Discharge from the court. DPSST notified the employer that this case would be sent to the Corrections Policy Committee for their review of whether Officer F had violated the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. The Corrections Policy Committee recommended that Officer F's certification be revoked and the Board affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer F requested a hearing but prior to the hearing being scheduled, Officer F resigned from his employment and was deployed in the military. After completing his military assignment, Officer F was contacted, and he again requested a hearing. Prior to the hearing, Officer F signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification. Officer F's conduct ended his 2-year career.

Officer A's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDS FOR OREGON PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

In January 2001, a list of mandatory disqualifying crimes was adopted into Oregon Administrative Rule. All other crimes were considered "discretionary" disqualifying crimes, meaning that the case would be heard in a Policy Committee that could consider mitigating or aggravating circumstances when determining whether to recommend revocation. Since this time there have been several law changes and a need to update this list was identified.

Early in 2005, the Police Policy Committee, the Corrections Committee and the Telecommunication Policy Committee appointed representatives to serve on a Disqualifying Convictions Workgroup. Through many hours of review and discussions, the workgroup prepared a *proposed* list of amendments that include removing and adding mandatory disqualifying crimes. This information was mailed to every public safety agency head and to public safety associations statewide. *It is our hope that each agency, association and membership will give thoughtful consideration to the proposed amendments and provide feedback to the workgroup.* **Ultimately, it is the goal of the workgroup to have a final product that has the support of the Oregon public safety community.**

Please ensure that comments are submitted by November 1, 2005. They should be sent to Theresa King, 550 North Monmouth Avenue, Monmouth, Oregon 97361, or by email to theresa.king@state.or.us .