

OREGON DPSST  
*ETHICS BULLETIN*

Volume No. 9



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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 December 2003.

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**Case 1**

Officer A was discharged for cause for violation of the Code of Ethics after he failed to report an assault of an inmate by a corrections officer and agreed with the corrections officer to cover up the assault when the incident was investigated by an outside agency. Officer A's conduct ended his 7-year career.

**Officer A's Basic, Intermediate, & Advanced Corrections Certifications were Revoked.**

**Case 2**

Officer B was discharged for cause for repeatedly falsifying documents and using false identities. Officer B completed an application for a commission as a notary public and used a false date of birth. He then purchased real estate using a fictitious name and later sold the property, notarizing his own fictitious name. Officer B completed his application for Basic Police certification and indicated that he had never been discharged for cause from a law enforcement agency although he had been discharged for cause earlier. An investigation revealed that Officer B had worked in an Oregon law enforcement agency several years earlier and obtained a DPSST number under a different name and social security number. Also, the investigation revealed that after Officer B was discharged for cause in 2002, he represented himself as a police officer while obtaining a mailbox and a cellular telephone account, and used a sergeant's identification from his former employer to rent the mailbox. Officer B's conduct ended his 6-year career.

**Officer B Basic Police Certification was Revoked.**

**Case 3**

Applicant C was denied his Polygraph Examiner Trainee License after he was convicted of Public Indecency. Applicant C repeatedly and knowingly exposed his genitals to female employees while sitting in his car at a drive-through coffee stand. Applicant C falsified his application by not listing two prior arrests and the conviction, falsely represented that he was a member of two polygraph examiners associations and falsely listed employment history.

**Applicant C's application for Polygraph Examiner Trainee License was Denied**

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#### **Case 4**

Officer D resigned after being arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Officer D crashed his personal vehicle into the back of an unoccupied police vehicle. Officer D was later convicted of DUII and Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree. Both of these convictions are discretionary disqualifying crimes. This matter was reviewed by the Police Policy Committee who recommended revocation, and their recommendation was affirmed by the Board. The officer's conduct ended a 15-year career.

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

#### **Case 5**

Officer E was arrested for Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree. Prior to trial, Officer E voluntarily resigned and signed a Stipulated Order not to seek employment as a public safety officer in the state of Oregon. This action ended a 9-year career.

**Officer E's Basic and Intermediate Police Certifications were Revoked.**

#### **Case 6**

Officer F resigned after engaging in a 5-hour armed police stand off during a domestic disturbance between he and his wife. Before surrendering, Officer F attempted to get the police to kill him, painted his face black, put on black clothing and hid in a ditch. This matter was reviewed by the Police Policy Committee who recommended revocation based on violation of the moral fitness standard, and their recommendation was affirmed by the Board. The officer's conduct ended an 8-year career.

**Officer F's Basic and Intermediate Police Certifications were Revoked.**

#### **Case 7**

Officer G was discharged for cause after he was convicted of Disorderly Conduct when he engaged in an off-duty traffic stop that resulted in an altercation. Officer G had been disciplined for similar prior altercations. Officer G's conduct ended his 31-year career.

**Officer G's Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Parole and Probation Certifications were Revoked.**

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**Question from Readers: What are the requirements of reporting criminal convictions of a public safety officer?**

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*Oregon Administrative Rule 259-008-0010(5) Notification of Conviction requires:*

*(a) A law enforcement officer, instructor, telecommunicator, or EMD who is convicted of a crime, as identified in OAR 259-008-0070, while employed by a public or private safety agency must notify the agency head within 72 hours of the conviction.*

*(b) When an agency receives notification of a conviction from its employee, or another source, they must notify the Department within five (5) business days.*

*(A) The notification to the Department must be in writing and include the specific charges of the conviction, the county and state where the conviction occurred, the investigating agency and the date of the conviction.*