

OREGON DPSST
ETHICS BULLETIN

Volume No. 2



The Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) 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** of certification by DPSST from January 2002 through May 2002 .

Case #1 -

Officer A violated the constitutional rights of citizens on multiple occasions. He unlawfully entered and searched a shed after being told the subject he was seeking was in the house. While in an off-duty capacity, he unlawfully seized an Oregon driver license, failed to provide a receipt and then trespassed on private property when requested to leave by the owners. He failed to initiate a criminal mischief report, failed to properly process latent print evidence and blood samples, and to properly care for objects of evidence by destroying evidence that may have been used to identify suspects. He failed to initiate an assault report. He failed to be absolutely candid and accountable to supervisors by denying officer safety concerns while transporting a suicidal mental patient to the hospital without restraints or officer assistance. Officer A received a letter of admonishment and corrective training, and was discharged for cause after repeated incidents of misconduct. Certification Revoked

Case #2 -

Officer B was arrested for domestic assault and harassment of his live-in girlfriend after pushing her into a dresser and down a flight of stairs while her child was present. He pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of fourth-degree assault, entered a diversion program and was subsequently discharged for cause. Certification Revoked

Case #3 -

Officer C was hired in September 1993. In December 1999, the officer was arrested and subsequently convicted of domestic assault and interfering with the victim making a police report. During the investigation it was learned the officer had failed to disclose on his employment documents a prior domestic abuse conviction in Idaho. He was discharged for cause for unprofessional and unbecoming conduct, a conviction of assault in the fourth degree and interfering with a person making a police report. Certification Revoked

Case #4 -

Officer D was arrested on a charge of sexual harassment. Upon investigation the officer admitted to stripping his 11 year old step-daughter nude on several occasions, placing her outside the home and then locking the door. His agency discharged him for cause on the grounds that he committed a criminal act and that his personal behavior constituted disgraceful conduct and, if it should become known, would be an embarrassment to the agency, the county and the law enforcement profession. Certification Revoked

Case #5 -

Officer E was a police officer for 6 years until he was discharged for cause for untruthfulness related to an incident in which he damaged his patrol car by hitting a pole in a parking lot. The officer lied to his supervisor stating that he was involved in a hit and run with a taxicab and allowed the supervisor to send a radio broadcast to all officers to be on the lookout for the hit and run driver. He was also guilty of failing to notify the dispatcher of the location and extent of the damage to the patrol vehicle and failing to complete a Report of Automobile Accident or Loss. Certification Revoked

Case #6 -

Officer F resorted to excessive violence when he threw three closed fist punches to the face of an inmate while the inmate was restrained. He then threw two more closed fist punches even though he had been told that the situation was under control and to stop. The agency discharged the officer for cause both for this incident and his subsequent attempts to cover up the situation by being untruthful during the investigation. Certification Revoked

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
550 N. Monmouth Avenue
Monmouth, OR 97361