

OREGON DPSST  
*ETHICS BULLETIN*

Volume No. 27



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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 **October/November 2005**.

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**Case 1**

**Officer A** was discharged for cause after an internal investigation revealed that he changed the date on his daughter's birth certificate to get her into school earlier. Officer A also attempted to have an inappropriate relationship with a female under the age of 18, and he solicited a member of the community in an attempted conspiracy to damage the reputation and credibility of one of his colleagues on the department. Prior to this, Officer A had been disciplined for falsifying his employment application by stating he had not been in the military, when he had actually entered the military and was discharged shortly thereafter for misconduct. Officer A was served a Notice of Intent to Revoke and requested a hearing. Prior to the hearing, Officer A declined to attend the hearing and a Default Order Revoking Certification was issued. Officer A's conduct ended his 7-year career.

**Officer A's Basic Police Certification was Revoked.**

**Case 2**

**Officer B** was arrested and subsequently convicted of Official Misconduct in the First Degree. In this case, while on duty and acting in the capacity of a police officer, Officer B contacted a female and claimed to be conducting a domestic violence investigation. When the female told Officer B that she had not been the victim of domestic violence, Officer B said he needed to examine her for physical evidence. The searches were somewhat intrusive and included partial disrobing. DPSST sought a Stipulated Order Revoking Certifications through the District Attorney's office. As a part of the sentencing, the Judge required that Officer B not be employed as a police officer. The DA's office returned the signed Stipulated Order. Officer B's conduct ended his 13-year career.

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

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### **Case 3**

**Officer C** was discharged for cause after an internal investigation revealed that during a vehicle pursuit, he violated several agency policies and he then lied to his supervisor. In this case, Officer C became the primary patrol vehicle in the pursuit and did not advise radio. He then discontinued pursuing the suspect, without explanation, and when he was asked about the event, Officer C asserted that another unidentified police vehicle interceded as the primary unit. Neither the secondary patrol vehicle, nor the supervisor saw this unidentified police vehicle. Officer C made a request for a hearing. However, Officer C did not appear on the hearing date. The Administrative Law Judge found Officer C in default and a Default Order was issued Revoking certification. Officer C's conduct ended his 13-year career.

**Officer C's Basic Police Certification was Revoked.**

### **Case 4**

**Officer D** resigned after an internal investigation revealed that she was having an inappropriate relationship with an inmate. When Officer D was interviewed, she first denied receiving correspondence from the inmate but later admitted to receiving such correspondence. Officer D admitted to looking up the inmate's relative on the agency computer and providing the inmate with his relative's incarceration location. Officer D's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke her certification based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer D was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer D's conduct ended her 8-year career.

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

### **Case 5**

**Officer E** resigned after an internal investigation revealed that she was having an inappropriate relationship with a parolee, when he was incarcerated. Officer E provided the parolee her email address, and later met the parolee at a motel. When Officer E was interviewed, she first denied any contact with the parolee. However after being confronted with evidence, Officer E acknowledged her involvement with the parolee. Officer E's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke her certification based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer E was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer E's conduct ended her 4-year career.

**Officer E's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked**

### **Case 6**

**Officer F** resigned after an internal investigation revealed that he had consumed alcohol while on duty. Using slurred speech, Officer F made inappropriate comments over the radio while he was working as an armed tower guard, which caused his superiors to contact him. Officer F was found out of uniform, intoxicated, and in possession of non-authorized equipment that included a laptop and a cell phone. Officer F admitted to consuming twelve beers prior to his shift and several beers while on duty at his post. Officer F's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke his certification based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. *Continued on page 3*

### **Case 6 continued**

The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer F was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer F's conduct ended his 9-year career.

#### **Officer F's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked**

### **Case 7**

**Officer G** was arrested and later convicted of Criminal Mischief, Disorderly Conduct and DUII. After a store owner refused to sell Officer G alcohol, he became angry, left the store, got into his truck and backed across a highway. Officer G's vehicle struck an ODOT sign and became stuck in the gravel when he attempted to leave. Officer G then became engaged in a physical fight with his passenger in the middle of the highway. When responding officers arrived, Officer G attempted to pull away and resisted when being handcuffed. Officer G then began to kick the windows of the patrol car and was placed in hobble restraints. At the jail, Officer G ran towards an open door when being booked into jail. Officer G's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke his certifications based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers and the discretionary disqualifying misdemeanor convictions. The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer G was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer G's conduct ended his 10-year career.

#### **Officer G's Basic and Intermediate Police Certifications were Revoked**

### **Case 8**

**Officer H** resigned and was thereafter convicted of Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree. Officer H admitted to officers that he broke the windows out of a workshop, a trailer, and three vehicles because he was upset about the separation of property under probate between him and his relatives. Later, Officer H was arrested after he was found screaming and making "pounding noises" in a roadway late at night. Officer H told the responding officers that he had consumed a few beers and some marijuana. Officer H was arrested for, and convicted of, Disorderly Conduct. This misdemeanor was reduced to a violation. Officer H's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke his certifications based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers and the discretionary disqualifying misdemeanor convictions. The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer H was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. **Officer G's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked**

### **Case 9**

**Officer I** resigned after an internal investigation revealed that he had an inappropriate relationship with a parolee. Earlier, Officer I admitted to a superior officer that he had fallen in love with the felony parolee; he received a letter of reprimand and instructions not to have any further contact with her. When the parolee was arrested on an outstanding warrant, she admitted to multiple contacts with Officer I. When interviewed, Officer I admitted to having continued his contact with the parolee that included physical contact. Officer I's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke his certifications based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. *Continued on page 4*

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### **Case 9 continued**

The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer I was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer I's conduct ended his 11-year career.

#### **Officer I's Basic Corrections Certifications were Revoked**

### **Case 10**

**Officer J** resigned after an internal investigation revealed that he had an inappropriate relationship with a parolee. Officer J admitted to meeting the parolee at a restaurant after her release and admitted to giving the parolee money. Officer J denied having a sexual relationship with the parolee, however he later admitted to such a relationship and admitted that he knew he was committing ethical and conduct violations. Officer J's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke his certifications based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer J was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer J's conduct ended his 15-year career.

#### **Officer J's Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Corrections Certifications were Revoked.**

### **Case 11**

**Officer K** resigned after an internal investigation revealed that she had an inappropriate relationship with an inmate. Officer K caused a post office box to be set up for the purpose of communicating with an inmate. When interviewed, Officer K denied knowing the individual who set up the post office box. However, when confronted with evidence she acknowledged knowing the individual and causing the post office box to be set up. Also, when interviewed, Officer K also denied being involved in a relationship with the inmate. However, once confronted with evidence, she admitted to limited involvement with the inmate. In later correspondence, Officer K admitted knowing her relationship with the inmate was against her agency policy and the Code of Ethics. Officer K's case was taken to the Corrections Policy Committee, which unanimously voted to revoke her certification based on violating the established moral fitness standards for Oregon public safety officers. The Board reviewed the case and affirmed the Policy Committee's recommendation. Officer K was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certification and did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer K's conduct ended her 3-year career.

#### **Officer K's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked.**



***"Always do right--this will gratify some and astonish the rest"***

***Mark Twain, 1901***