

OREGON DPSST
ETHICS BULLETIN

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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 **April 2006**.

Case 1

Officer A resigned and was subsequently convicted of Coercion, a felony. This case stemmed from a domestic violence incident. As a part of Officer A's sentencing, the judge required Officer A to agree to his DPSST decertification. Officer A was served with a Notice of Intent to Revoke. Officer A did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer A's conduct ended his 10-year career.

Officer A's Basic Police Certification was Revoked.

Case 2

Officer B resigned and was subsequently convicted of Assault in the Fourth Degree. This case stemmed from a domestic violence incident. Officer B voluntarily signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification. Officer B's conduct ended his 12-year career.

Officer B's Basic Police Certification was Revoked

Case 3

Officer C resigned and after considering personal issues, he voluntarily signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification, advising his employer that he wished to do the honorable thing for his employer and for his profession. Officer C's employer advised DPSST that Officer C is considered "an honorable person with integrity." Officer C has ended his 15-year career.

Officer C's Basic and Intermediate Police Certifications were Revoked.

Please take note:

During the last legislative session, House Bill 2724 passed making a change to Oregon's public records law. This change offers additional protection for Oregon's public safety officers. (continued on page 2)

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www.dpsst.state.or.us 503-378-2305 March 2006 Ethics Bulletin

Page 1 of 2

Effective January 1, 2006, ORS 192.502 includes the following:

"The following public records are exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.410 to 192.505 . . . (33) If requested by a public safety officer as defined in ORS 181.610, the home address, home telephone number and electronic mail address of the public safety officer . . ."

This new law allows public safety officers to protect their information from disclosure. DPSST has created Form F-2724 for that purpose. You may access this form at our website, <http://www.oregon.gov/DPSST/SC/CJForms.shtml>, complete it, and mail it to DPSST.

A Higher Standard

By Crook County Sheriff Rodd Clark, President, OSSA

**Without integrity who are we?
Do we have anything to offer if we can't offer integrity?
How are we different if integrity is not a part of our core person?**

The dictionary defines **integrity** as; *"Trustworthiness and incorruptibility to a degree that one is incapable of being false to a trust," "Adherence to a code of moral or other values."*

Another related word is **honesty**. The dictionary defines honesty as; *"Fairness and straightforwardness of conduct"; "Adherence to the facts."* The last word I will address is **ethical**. The dictionary defines ethical as *"Conforming to accepted, especially, professional standards of conduct."*

From where I sit, the higher standard we are held to was never more important than it is now! We are constantly surprised when we hear of people who are caught doing something so contradictory to who we are as law enforcement professionals.

Could who you are in your public life of duty and in your interaction with citizens be different than who you are within yourself, your core person? Do you have a secret "self" life where you are not this public person of integrity, honesty and one who is ethically driven? I trust not, and I encourage you to search out who you are when no one else is around to influence your thoughts. Don't wait for a double standard to expose you, destroy your career and damage the reputation of the profession you serve.

I trust you will be satisfied with the person you find in this important time of introspection. I trust you are that ethical person defined by the total integrity of your core person. You will then measure up to the higher standard.

Rodd Clark is the Sheriff of Crook County. Sheriff Clark has served in public safety for over twenty-six years and as the Sheriff for nearly twenty years. He is the longest serving Sheriff active in the OSSA. Sheriff Clark served two years as a Lieutenant with the US Army MP Corps prior to his civilian law enforcement career. Sheriff Clark has been President of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association twice in the past six years and is the current President of the Association. Sheriff Clark is an OEDI (Oregon Executive Development Institute) Graduate and continues his relationship with DPSST by serving currently on the Police Memorial Trust Fund Committee.

For more information, or to contact Sheriff Clark, please email him at:
ccso.sheriffclark@psnet.us

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www.dpsst.state.or.us 503-378-2305 April 2006 Ethics Bulletin

Page 2 of 2