

OREGON DPSST
ETHICS BULLETIN

Volume No. 38



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** of certifications by DPSST in **October 2006**.

The Department continues to ensure that certified public safety officers and those seeking certification who abuse the public's trust will be held accountable for their actions.

Case 1

Telecommunicator A was discharged for cause after an internal investigation revealed that she fell asleep on several occasions while on duty as a dispatcher and that she made personal calls while on duty. On one occasion, Telecommunicator A engaged in a personal cell phone call while an officer was calling for back up, and while the officer was still fighting with the suspect. The internal investigation also revealed that she was untruthful during the investigation about her misconduct. Telecommunicator A's misconduct ended her 6-year career.

Telecommunicator A's Basic Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher Certifications were REVOKED.

Case 2

Officer B, an agency head, was discharged for cause after a Review Panel determined that he was guilty of gross misconduct for the inappropriate manner he handled a significant agency issue. The Panel also found that Officer B had been untruthful when addressing this agency issue and that his untruthfulness reflected on the entire organization. Officer B was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke. He made a timely request for a hearing. DPSST filed a Motion for Ruling on Legal Issues (Summary Judgment) with the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), asserting that there was no genuine issue as to any material fact that is relevant to resolution of the legal issue for which a decision is sought. The ALJ issued a Proposed Order revoking Officer B's Police certifications. Officer B did not file exceptions to the Judge's Order. DPSST adopted the Judge's Proposed Order in its entirety and filed a Final Order. Officer B's conduct ended his 14-year career.

Officer B's Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Police Certifications were REVOKED

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

Page 1 of 2

Case 3

Officer C resigned from his agency and was subsequently convicted of Official Misconduct in the First Degree. In this case, Officer C confiscated a gun during a traffic stop and instead of turning the property in, kept it for himself. Official Misconduct is a mandatory disqualifying crime for purposes of revocation or denial. Officer C was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke. He made a timely request for a hearing. DPSST filed a Motion for Ruling on Legal Issues (Summary Judgment) with the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), asserting that there was no genuine issue as to any material fact that is relevant to resolution of the legal issue for which a decision is sought. The ALJ issued a Proposed Order revoking Officer C's Police certifications. Officer C did not file exceptions to the Judge's Order. DPSST adopted the Judge's Proposed Order in its entirety and filed a Final Order. Officer C's conduct ended his 10-year career.

Officer C's Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Supervisor Police Certifications were REVOKED

Case 4

Officer D was convicted of Menacing, an act involving domestic violence. Officer D resigned from his agency. In this case, Officer D assaulted his partner by grabbing her by the hair and throwing her to the ground. Any crime involving domestic violence is a mandatory disqualifying crime for purposes of revocation or denial. Officer D was issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke. He made a timely request for a hearing. DPSST filed a Motion for Ruling on Legal Issues (Summary Judgment) with the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), asserting that there was no genuine issue as to any material fact that is relevant to resolution of the legal issue for which a decision is sought. The ALJ issued a Proposed Order revoking Officer D's Corrections certification. Officer D did not file exceptions to the Judge's Order. DPSST adopted the Judge's Proposed Order in its entirety and filed a Final Order. Officer D's conduct ended his 7-year career.

Officer D's Basic Corrections Certification was REVOKED



Oregon Criminal Justice Code of Ethics

AS A CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve humankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect all persons against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity, will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. Without compromise and with relentlessness, I will uphold the laws affecting the duties of my profession courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE my position as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it, as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of The Criminal Justice System. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession.

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

Page 2 of 2