

**OREGON DPSST**  
***ETHICS BULLETIN***  
**Volume No. 50**



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 have resulted in consideration of **revocation or denial** of certifications by DPSST in **October 2007**.

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.

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**October Statistics**

<b>Cases Opened</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Cases Closed</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Of the 18 Cases Closed:</b>	
<b>Revoked</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Denied</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Action</b>	<b>14</b>

**Case 1**

**Officer A's** employer submitted an F-4, Personnel Action Report and F-5 Application for Training. A routine records check revealed a DUI conviction. DUI is a discretionary disqualifying event for purposes of public safety officer certification. Officer A was notified that her case would be heard before the Telecommunications Policy Committee and that she could provide in writing any mitigating circumstances she wished to have considered. The Telecommunications Policy Committee reviewed the matter and recommended revoking Officer A's certifications. Prior to being heard by the Board, Officer A was discharged for cause for failing to report to work. Officer A was mailed a Notice of Intent to Revoke. She did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer A's misconduct ended her 1-year career.

**Officer A's Emergency Medical Dispatcher training and subsequent certification was Denied.**

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**PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS**

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### **Case 2**

**Officer B** was discharged for cause after an internal investigation revealed that he had violated his Last Chance Agreement with his employer. In this case, after an earlier incident involving alcohol, Officer B had signed a Last Chance Agreement that he would not use alcohol for a period of four years. Officer B was located by police officers in a parked vehicle with the engine running. When officers approached Officer B, they had to physically nudge him to awaken him. Officers observed ten empty beer cans and a loaded weapon in Officer B's vehicle. Officer B smelled of alcoholic beverages and admitted to drinking alcohol earlier. Officer B was sent a Notice of Intent to Revoke. Officer B did not make a timely request for a hearing. Officer B's misconduct ended his 19-year career.

**Officer B's Basic Corrections Certification was Revoked.**

### **Case 3**

**Officer C** resigned after an internal investigation regarding his conduct prior to, during and after a pursuit that resulted in a double fatal crash. The employer determined that Officer C violated numerous agency policies which included untruthfulness. Officer C was notified his case would be heard by the Police Policy Committee and he was invited to provide mitigating factors for their consideration. After review and discussion, the Police Policy Committee determined that although Officer C demonstrated a lack of competency and leadership skills for the position he held, there was enough vagueness among the various versions of his actions that it could not be proven by a preponderance of evidence that Officer C was willfully deceptive. The Board affirmed the Police Policy Committee's recommendation not to revoke Officer C's certifications.

**Officer C's Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Supervisory certifications remain in a lapsed status.**

### **Case 4**

**Officer D** resigned and then pled guilty to Official Misconduct in the First Degree. In this case Officer D contacted vulnerable women, asked to search them, and then conducted highly intrusive searches. Officer D also made sexual comments to some of the women, and returned to visit one for other than business-related contacts. Officer D voluntarily signed a Stipulated Order Revoking Certification. Officer D's misconduct ended his 9-year career.

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

### **Case 5**

**Telecommunicator E** resigned and then pled guilty to Official Misconduct in the First Degree. In this case, while on duty, Telecommunicator E took an incoming call about her husband's involvement in a crime. Telecommunicator D did not properly route the call for law enforcement action. After her conviction, Telecommunicator D was sent a Notice of Intent to Revoke; she did not make a timely request for a hearing. Telecommunicator D's misconduct ended her 5-year career.

**Telecommunicator D's Basic Certification and Emergency Medical Dispatcher Certifications were Revoked.**