


<b>Bound Brook Police Department General Order</b>			
<b>Chapter:</b> 2	<b>Section:</b> 7	<b># of Pages:</b> 12	
<b>Subject: EARLY WARNING SYSTEM</b>			
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> JULY 1, 2016		<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:</b> 2.2.3	
<b>BY THE ORDER OF:</b> Chief Richard S. Colombaroni		<small>Disclaimer – "The Written Directives developed by the Bound Brook Police Department are for internal use only, and do not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. They should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of Written Directives can only be a basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in an administrative disciplinary setting."</small>	
<b>General Order Number:</b> 16-28	<b>Applicability:</b> ALL PERSONNEL	<b>Last Revised:</b> January 2, 2023	<b>Review Date:</b> Annual

- I. **Purpose:** To provide guidelines for establishing an Early Warning System to identify employees who may require proactive intervention efforts.
  
- II. **Policy:** In compliance with guidelines established by the [New Jersey Attorney General](#) and the Somerset County Prosecutor ([Appendix A](#)), it is the policy of the Bound Brook Police Department to utilize an early warning system for tracking and reviewing incidents of risk and provide timely intervention to employees who meet established criteria. An Early Warning System ("EW System") is an important management tool designed to detect patterns and trends in police conduct before that conduct escalates. An effective EW System can assist a law enforcement agency in identifying and remediating problematic officer conduct that poses a potential risk to the public, to the agency, and to the officer. EW Systems, therefore, serve to not only increase public safety and public confidence in law enforcement, but also to assist officers through early intervention.

The Bound Brook Police Department has a responsibility to its employees and the community to identify and assist employees who show symptoms of job-related stress, personal problems or require additional training. Such symptoms may be exhibited in on-the-job performance behaviors that results in complaints from citizens or may be indicated other performance indicators. The Bound Brook Police Department has existing programs available to assist employees, including Cop-2-Cop Assistance Program, and other counseling, which are available to employees on a voluntary and policy-mandated basis. In order to enhance these services, the Department has implemented the Early Warning System Program.

### **III. Selection of Performance Indicators**

The EW System shall monitor many different categories of officer conduct which indicate potentially escalating risk of harm to the public, the agency, and/or the officer. The following performance indicators shall be monitored in the EW Systems:

1. Internal affairs complaints against the officer, whether initiated by another officer or by a member of the public;
2. Civil actions filed against the officer;
3. Criminal investigations of or criminal complaints against the officer; ~
4. Any use of force by the officer that is formally determined or adjudicated (for example, by internal affairs or a grand jury) to have been excessive, unjustified, or unreasonable;
5. Domestic violence investigations in which the officer is an alleged subject;
6. An arrest of the officer, including on a driving under the influence charge;
7. Sexual harassment claims against the officer;
8. Vehicular collisions involving the officer that are formally determined to have been the fault of the officer;
9. A positive drug test by the officer;
10. Cases or arrests by the officer that are rejected or dismissed by a court;
11. Cases in which evidence obtained by an officer is suppressed by a court;
12. Insubordination by the officer;
13. Neglect of duty by the officer;
14. Unexcused absences by the officer; and
15. Any other indicators, as determined by the Chief.

### **IV. Initiation of Early Warning Process**

At a minimum, three separate instances of performance indicators (as listed in Section III, above) within any twelve-month period will trigger the EW System review process. If one incident triggers multiple performance indicators, that incident shall not be double- or triple-counted, but instead shall count as only one performance indicator. The Chief may in his or her discretion determine that a lower number of performance indicators within a twelve-month period (i.e., one or two performance indicators) will trigger the EW System review process.

### **V. Administration and Tracking**

#### **a. Guardian Tracking Software**

- i. Guardian Tracking is a software-based system to augment the current performance evaluation system. Guardian Tracking allows supervisors the ability to document routine performance, in one centralized location, during the course of an evaluation period. As incidents are entered, Guardian Tracking will monitor the frequency of specific incidents to determine if early intervention is warranted.

- ii. The following incidents shall be entered into Guardian Tracking, at a minimum:
  - 1. Items previously listed in Section III
  - 2. Any use of force incident
  - 3. Any vehicular pursuit
  - 4. Awards and recognitions
  - 5. Administrative reviews
  - 6. Performance evaluations
  - 7. Field training documents
- iii. The internal affairs unit commander shall be the early warning system coordinator.

b. Supervisors

- i. An employee's front-line supervisor should be the first member of the department to encounter specific incidents that affect an employee, as they work with the individual employee on a day-to-day basis.
- ii. By entering incidents into the Guardian Tracking system, notifications will be automatically made through the chain of command.
- iii. Supervisors who identify deficiencies with personnel outside of their chain of command will notify the employee's direct supervisor indicating the nature of the deficiency. That supervisor will then assess the situation and enter it into Guardian Tracking if deemed necessary.
  - 1. This does not relieve the supervisor noting the deficiency from taking immediate corrective action if necessary.
- iv. Supervisors are encouraged to document **positive** performances through the Guardian Tracking system as well.

## VI. Remedial/Corrective Action

Once an officer has displayed the requisite number of performance indicators necessary to trigger the EW System review process (as set forth in Section IV, above) the early warning system coordinator shall initiate remedial action to address the officer's behavior.

When an EW System review process is initiated the EW System Administrator should

- (1) formally notify the subject officer, in writing;
- (2) conference with the subject officer and appropriate supervisory personnel;
- (3) develop and administer a remedial program including the appropriate remedial/corrective actions listed below;

- (4) continue to monitor the subject officer for at least three months, or until the supervisor concludes that the officer's behavior has been remediated (whichever is longer);
- (5) document and report findings to the appropriate supervisory personnel and, if warranted, the internal affairs unit.

Any statement made by the subject officer in connection with the EW System review process may not be used against the subject officer in any disciplinary or other proceeding.

Remedial/corrective action may include but is not limited to the following:

- (1) Training or re-training;
- (2) Counseling;
- (3) Intensive supervision;
- (4) Fitness-for-duty examination;
- (5) Employee Assistance Program (EAP) referral; and
- (6) Any other appropriate remedial or corrective action.

This Directive, is focused on corrective actions to remediate officer behavior and to provide assistance to the officer. This Directive, and the EW System, does not address disciplinary actions that might be warranted against an officer. Such disciplinary actions — to include the decision to suspend, terminate or, if applicable, charge an officer with criminal conduct — remain within the purview of the agency's internal affairs function, and may be imposed in accordance with existing internal affairs guidelines and applicable law, separate from and independent of the EW System.

## **VII. Notification to Subsequent Law Enforcement Employer**

If any officer who is or has been subject to an EW System review process applies to or accepts employment at a different law enforcement agency than the Bound Brook Police Department and he or she underwent the EW System review process, it is the responsibility the Bound Brook Police Department or the current employing law enforcement agency to notify the subsequent employing law enforcement agency of the officer's EW System review process history and outcomes. Upon request, the Bound Brook Police Department or the current employing agency shall share the officer's EW System review process files with the subsequent employing agency.

## **VIII. Notification to County Prosecutor**

Upon initiation of the EW System review process, the Chief or a designee shall make a confidential written notification to the Somerset County Prosecutor or his/her designee of the identity of the subject officer, the nature of the triggering performance indicators, and the planned remedial program. Upon completion of the EW System review process, the Chief shall make a confidential written notification to the Somerset County Prosecutor or his/her designee of the outcome of the EW System review, including any remedial measures taken on behalf of the subject officer.

## **IX. Annual Report to Attorney General**



By January 31st of each year, the Somerset County Prosecutor submits a report to the Attorney General, through the Division of Criminal Justice's Prosecutors' Supervision and Training Bureau. This summary includes a statement indicating those agencies under the Somerset County Prosecutor's supervision that are in compliance with this Directive and those that are not.

## **X. Public Accessibility and Confidentiality**

The EW System policy adopted by the Bound Brook Police Department shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be posted on the Bound Brook Police Department's website. Annual reports from the County Prosecutors to the Attorney General (as required by Section XI, above) also shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be posted on the agency's website.

All written reports created or submitted pursuant to this Directive that identify specific officers are confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

Appendix A

<b>SOMERSET COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE COUNTY GENERAL ORDER</b>			
<b>VOLUME: 8</b>	<b>CHAPTER: 2</b>	<b># OF PAGES: 2</b>	
<b>SUBJECT: EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES</b>			
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> April 13, 2018	<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:</b> 2.2.3		
<b>REVISION DATES:</b>			
<b>BY THE ORDER OF:</b> Michael H. Robertson, Prosecutor 			
<b>SUPERSEDES ORDER #:</b>			

**PURPOSE** The purpose of this County General Order is to establish a personnel early warning system in all Somerset County municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

**POLICY** It is the policy of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) that all Somerset County municipal and county law enforcement agencies shall establish and utilize an early warning system for tracking and reviewing incidents of risk and provide timely intervention consistent with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office Law Enforcement Directive No. 2018-3, "Statewide Early Warning Systems," (Directive), attached hereto, and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures, Revised July 2014. Additionally, all Somerset County municipal and county law enforcement agencies shall follow the below procedures to be in compliance with Sections II.H and II.I of the Directive.

**PROCEDURES**

1. Section II.H. – Notification to County Prosecutor
  - A. Upon initiation of the Early Warning System review process for a specific officer, the Chief, Sheriff, Director, Officer-In-Charge or a designee shall notify the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit Commander via a confidential written notification. The confidential written notification shall include, at a minimum, the

identity of the subject officer, the nature of the triggering performance indicators and the planned remedial program.

- B. Upon completion of the Early Warning System review process for the subject officer, the Chief, Sheriff, Director, Officer-In-Charge or a designee shall notify the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit Commander via a confidential written notification of the outcome of the review process. This written confidential notification shall, at a minimum, include any remedial measures taken on behalf of the subject officer and if the officer successfully completed the remedial measures.

II. Section II.I. – Annual Report to the Attorney General

As required by this Section, by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, the County Prosecutor is required to submit a written report to the Attorney General which shall include a statement indicating which Somerset County law enforcement agencies are in compliance with the provisions of the Directive and those that are not in compliance. In order for our Office to be in compliance with this Section, each Chief, Sheriff, Director, Officer-In-Charge or a designee shall send written notification to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit Commander by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year indicating that their agency did or did not follow all the provisions of the Directive. If the letter indicates that your agency did not follow all the provisions of the Directive, provide the reasons why the provisions were not followed and a remedial plan to ensure that all provisions of the Directive will be followed during the new year. If the letter indicates that your agency did follow all the provisions of the Directive, indicate if any officers were the subject of an Early Warning System review process, how many officers were the subject of the review process, and if the officers successfully completed the remedial measures assigned to the officers.



*State of New Jersey*

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GURBIR S. GREWAL  
*Attorney General*

**ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. 2018-3**

**TO:** All Law Enforcement Chief Executives

**FROM:** Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General

**DATE:** March 20, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Statewide Mandatory Early Warning Systems

I. Background

An Early Warning System (“EW System”) is an important management tool designed to detect patterns and trends in police conduct before that conduct escalates. An effective EW System can assist a law enforcement agency in identifying and remediating problematic officer conduct that poses a potential risk to the public, to the agency, and to the officer. EW Systems, therefore, serve to not only increase public safety and public confidence in law enforcement, but also to assist officers through early intervention. Indeed, many law enforcement agencies throughout the State have recognized the utility of such systems and some County Prosecutors already require agencies within their jurisdictions to use them. For all of these reasons, this Directive now mandates that all law enforcement agencies in New Jersey adopt and implement EW Systems consistent with the requirements set forth below.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Criminal Justice Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 52:17B-97 to -117, which provides for the general supervision of criminal justice by the Attorney General as chief law enforcement officer of the State to secure the benefits of a uniform and efficient enforcement of the criminal law and the administration of criminal justice throughout the State, I, Gurbir S. Grewal, hereby DIRECT all law enforcement and prosecuting agencies operating under the authority of the laws of the State of New Jersey to implement and comply with the following policies, procedures, standards, and practices.





## II. Implementation

### A. Applicability

This Directive shall apply to all state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies and sworn officers who are responsible for enforcing the criminal laws in New Jersey, come under the jurisdiction of the Police Training Act, and are authorized to carry a firearm under N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6.

### B. Establishment of EW System Policy

All state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies shall adopt and/or revise their existing EW System policies, consistent with this Directive, either by rule, regulation, or standard operating procedure ("SOP"), as required by state law.

### C. Selection of Performance Indicators

An EW System may monitor many different categories of officer conduct which indicate potentially escalating risk of harm to the public, the agency, and/or the officer. The following performance indicators shall be included in all EW Systems, but also can be supplemented based upon the unique characteristics of the department and the community it serves. The chief executive of the department shall determine any such supplemental performance indicators. To the extent possible, supplemental performance indicators should be objectively measurable and reasonably related to potentially escalating harmful behavior by the officer.

1. Internal affairs complaints against the officer, whether initiated by another officer or by a member of the public;
2. Civil actions filed against the officer;
3. Criminal investigations of or criminal complaints against the officer;<sup>1</sup>
4. Any use of force by the officer that is formally determined or adjudicated (for example, by internal affairs or a grand jury) to have been excessive, unjustified, or unreasonable;
5. Domestic violence investigations in which the officer is an alleged subject;
6. An arrest of the officer, including on a driving under the influence charge;
7. Sexual harassment claims against the officer;
8. Vehicular collisions involving the officer that are formally determined to have been the fault of the officer;
9. A positive drug test by the officer;
10. Cases or arrests by the officer that are rejected or dismissed by a court;
11. Cases in which evidence obtained by an officer is suppressed by a court;
12. Insubordination by the officer;
13. Neglect of duty by the officer;

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<sup>1</sup> If EW System notification to the officer could jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation, the County Prosecutor may in his or her discretion permit delayed notification to the officer or delayed initiation of the EW System review process.

14. Unexcused absences by the officer; and
15. Any other indicators, as determined by the agency's chief executive.

D. Initiation of Early Warning Process

At a minimum, an agency's EW System policy shall provide that three separate instances of performance indicators (as listed in Section C, above) within any twelve-month period will trigger the EW System review process. If one incident triggers multiple performance indicators, that incident shall not be double- or triple-counted, but instead shall count as only one performance indicator. The agency's chief executive may in his or her discretion determine that a lower number of performance indicators within a twelve-month period (i.e., one or two performance indicators) will trigger the EW System review process.

E. Administration and Tracking

The agency's chief executive shall assign personnel to conduct the EW System function. Typically, the EW System should be administered by the agency's internal affairs unit. Supervisory officers in the subject officer's chain of command also should be directly involved in any EW System review process.

Every department shall adopt a tracking system to enable the department to identify officers who display the requisite number of performance indicators necessary to trigger the EW System review process. Many departments in New Jersey have adopted automated systems that are capable of flagging emerging behavioral patterns. At least every six months, personnel assigned to manage the EW System shall audit the agency's tracking system and records to assess the accuracy and efficacy of the tracking system.

F. Remedial/Corrective Action

Once an officer has displayed the requisite number of performance indicators necessary to trigger the EW System review process (as set forth in Section II.C, above) assigned supervisory personnel shall initiate remedial action to address the officer's behavior.

When an EW System review process is initiated, personnel assigned to oversee the EW System should (1) formally notify the subject officer, in writing; (2) conference with the subject officer and appropriate supervisory personnel; (3) develop and administer a remedial program including the appropriate remedial/corrective actions listed below; (4) continue to monitor the subject officer for at least three months, or until the supervisor concludes that the officer's behavior has been remediated (whichever is longer); (5) document and report findings to the appropriate supervisory personnel and, if warranted, the internal affairs unit. Any statement made by the subject officer in connection with the EW System review process may not be used against the subject officer in any disciplinary or other proceeding.

Remedial/corrective action may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Training or re-training;

2. Counseling;
3. Intensive supervision;
4. Fitness-for-duty examination;
5. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) referral; and
6. Any other appropriate remedial or corrective action.<sup>2</sup>

G. Notification to Subsequent Law Enforcement Employer

If any officer who is or has been subject to an EW System review process applies to or accepts employment at a different law enforcement agency than the one where he or she underwent the EW System review process, it is the responsibility of the prior or current employing law enforcement agency to notify the subsequent employing law enforcement agency of the officer's EW System review process history and outcomes. Upon request, the prior or current employing agency shall share the officer's EW System review process files with the subsequent employing agency.

H. Notification to County Prosecutor

Upon initiation of the EW System review process, the agency's chief executive or a designee shall make a confidential written notification to the County Prosecutor or his/her designee of the identity of the subject officer, the nature of the triggering performance indicators, and the planned remedial program. Upon completion of the EW System review process, the agency's chief executive shall make a confidential written notification to the County Prosecutor or his/her designee of the outcome of the EW System review, including any remedial measures taken on behalf of the subject officer.

I. Annual Report to Attorney General

By January 31st of each year, each County Prosecutor shall submit a report to the Attorney General, through the Division of Criminal Justice's Prosecutors' Supervision and Training Bureau. This summary shall include a statement indicating those agencies under the County Prosecutor's supervision that are in compliance with this Directive and those that are not.

III. Public Accessibility and Confidentiality

All EW System policies adopted by law enforcement agencies shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be posted on the agency's website. Annual reports from the

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<sup>2</sup> This Directive, and EW Systems generally, are focused on corrective actions to remediate officer behavior and to provide assistance to the officer. This Directive, and EW Systems generally, do not address disciplinary actions that might be warranted against an officer. Such disciplinary actions – to include the decision to suspend, terminate or, if applicable, charge an officer with criminal conduct – remain within the purview of the agency's internal affairs function, and may be imposed in accordance with existing internal affairs guidelines and applicable law, separate from and independent of the EW System.

County Prosecutors to the Attorney General (as required by Section II.I, above) also shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be posted on the agency's website.

All written reports created or submitted pursuant to this Directive that identify specific officers are confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

IV. Effective Date

This Directive shall take effect immediately upon issuance. All EW System policies shall be adopted and/or revised in accordance with this Directive within 60 days.



Gurbir S. Grewal  
Attorney General

ATTEST:

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Elie Honig  
Director, Division of Criminal Justice  
Issued on: March 20, 2018