



# Colorado Springs Police Department

## Standard Operating Procedure

### DL-1810-01 Expert Witness Fees

#### Section 1800 – Personnel Functions

Effective Date: 10/11/2021

Supersedes Date: 2/26/2013

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#### **.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to avoid conflicts of interest in regard to employees soliciting and receiving expert witness fees.

#### **.02 Cross Reference**

[GO 410 Outside Employment](#)

[GO 1810 Court Procedures](#)

#### **.03 Definitions**

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#### **.04 Procedure**

Department employees will not pursue compensatory gain, as a professional or expert witness, in any case involving criminal or civil litigation of an incident that was investigated by the department or its employees unless previously approved by the chief of police.

#### **.10 Professional Witness Fees**

Employees will not solicit or receive professional fees for any purpose while performing under the color of the employee's authority with the department without the approval of the chief of police or their designee. This includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

- Expert testimony
- Traffic or criminal investigations
- Depositions
- Court actions; whether criminal or civil in nature
- Subpoenas

- Any action where an employee would be professionally compensated for their work as a city employee.

## **.20 Permissible Activities**

Employees who have the expertise to be an expert witness may solicit and receive compensation so long as the following conditions have been satisfied:

- They have prior approval from the chief of police;
- The employee is not involved with the investigation in question, and the employee's testimony is not contrary to the interests of the department;
- The incident does not involve the City of Colorado Springs or the department;
- The employee acts on their own behalf and separates their position from the department during testimony, reconstruction, or deposition;
  - Years of experience and training with the department may be declared
- The employee has been approved for outside employment to reconstruct traffic or criminal incidents. This will include only those incidents that do not involve the city of Colorado Springs or the department.