



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

1903 Body Worn Cameras and Digital Evidence

Section 1900 – Operational Technology Systems

Effective Date: 2/21/2025

Revision Rescinded: 11/12/2024

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide department personnel with instructions on when and how to use body worn cameras (BWCs).

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 407 Off-Duty Enforcement Action](#)

[DL-1903-01 BWC Use](#)

[DL-1903-02 Dash Cameras](#)

[DL-1903-10 Release of Body-Worn Camera Footage](#)

[METRO-26 Confidential Informants](#)

[METRO-27 Covert Operations](#)

.03 Discussion

Body-worn cameras (BWC) help facilitate documentation of police-citizen interactions where some type of investigation or enforcement action may be anticipated. As outlined in this policy and associated department procedures, the use of BWC evidence may be used to corroborate the facts of police-citizen interactions and enhance law enforcement investigations.

.04 Policy

Officers will activate the BWC as defined in this policy and Colorado law. The BWC will only be used in the performance of official duties.

All audio, images, and metadata associated with the BWC are the property of CSPD. Officers will not copy, download, release, or disseminate videos in any form or manner inconsistent with this policy, without the express consent of the Chief of Police or designee.

This policy does not apply to in-vehicle camera systems. Policy requirements for those devices are outlined in DL-1903-02 Dash Cameras.

.05 Definitions

BWC Administrator: The commander of the Management Services Division is designated as the coordinator for the body worn camera (BWC) program.

Body Worn Camera (BWC): Camera system designed to be worn by a police officer to capture digital multimedia evidence (DME).

Digital Multimedia Evidence (DME): All digital recordings, to include but not limited to audio, video, photographs, and their associated metadata.

Dwelling: Includes a building which is used, intended to be used, or usually used by a person for habitation. See C.R.S. § 18-1-901(3)(g).

Metadata: Includes any digital identifiers that are captured as part of the actual recording such as date/time, GPS coordinates, labeling, classifications, etc.

Premises: Includes any real estate and all improvements (buildings, garages, sheds, etc.) erected thereon. See C.R.S. §18-4-201(1).

Tamper: Means to intentionally damage, disable, dislodge, or obstruct the sight or sound or otherwise impair functionality of the body worn camera or to intentionally damage, delete, or fail to upload some or all portions of the video and audio (C.R.S. § 24-31-901).

.10 Assigned Devices

All sworn police officers, at all ranks, are individually assigned a BWC and are responsible for the care and upkeep of their assigned equipment, to include charging and docking of the device. Officers will only use their assigned BWC device.

Officers will not use any other device in place of the department's approved BWC system. These devices must be returned to a divisional Tech Team Officer upon termination of employment with the department.

.20 Wearing of Body Worn Camera

This section applies to sworn personnel only.

All officers, regardless of rank, are required, when on duty, to carry the BWC when leaving the secured areas of a police facility, due to the possibility of having to take unforeseen enforcement or investigative action.

While inside the secure area of a police facility, officers will carry the BWC anytime they anticipate a circumstance that would require recording under section .25 Required Use.

Approved Mounting Systems

All BWCs will be mounted on a sworn employee's body using a department-approved mounting system from the BWC manufacturer. Use of any other mounting systems is prohibited. The only mounting systems approved for department use are:

- [Axon Body – Molle High Torque Double Rapidlock](#) (standard body armor mount)
- [Axon Body – Rapidlock Jacket Mount](#) (standard jacket/thick clothing mount)
- [Axon Body – Rapidlock High Retention Wing Clip](#) (standard clothing mount)
- [Axon Body – Rapidlock High Retention Belt Clip](#) (standard belt clip)
- [Axon Body – Magnet Flexible Rapidlock](#) (magnetic mount – Investigations Division only)

Uniformed Assignments – Officers & Sergeants

Officers and sergeants in uniformed assignments will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The BWC will be centered at or above mid-chest level on the torso, consistent with the design of their issued body armor.
- The BWC will face forward with the lens in a straightforward direction.
- The entire BWC will be clean and free of obstructions, such as jackets, traffic vests, etc.
- The BWC will be carried using only the department-issued standard body armor or jacket mount. If a user does not have molle-style body armor, they will use either the standard jacket-style or clothing mount to mount the camera to their armor.
- Carrying the BWC in a pocket of the body armor is prohibited.
- Use of the belt clip mount by officers or sergeants in uniformed assignments is prohibited, except in circumstances they are not wearing body armor (temporary duty assignment, duty desk assignment, etc.).

Uniformed Assignments – Lieutenants and Above

Lieutenants and above in uniformed assignments will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The BWC will be centered at or above mid-chest level on the torso or be centered at belt level as much as possible.
- The BWC will face forward with the lens in a straightforward direction.
- The entire BWC will be clean and free of obstructions, such as jackets, traffic vests, etc.
- The BWC will be carried using only the department-issued standard mounts. When wearing body armor, the standard body armor or jacket mount will be used. When not wearing body armor, any standard mount is authorized.
- Carrying the BWC in a pocket of the body armor is prohibited.

Detective & Plainclothes Assignments – All Personnel

Personnel in detective and plainclothes assignments will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The BWC will be centered at or above mid-chest level on the torso or be centered at belt level as much as possible.
- The BWC will face forward with the lens in a straightforward direction.
- The entire BWC will be clean and free of obstructions, such as jackets, etc.
- The BWC will be carried using only the department-issued standard mounts. When wearing body armor, the standard body armor or jacket mount will be used. When not wearing body armor, any standard mount is authorized.
- Carrying the BWC in a pocket of the body armor is prohibited.

The position in which the camera is carried must conform to the guidelines outlined above. Any alternate carry methods must be approved through the chain of command to the Management Services Division Commander before use.

Whenever wearing body armor, the camera must be mounted to the armor or external jacket in the methods described above.

.25 Required Use

This section applies to sworn personnel only.

Officers are required to activate recording on their BWC and continuously record in all situations that include any of the requirements listed below. **These requirements apply to any assignment in which an officer participates, including normal duty assignment, extra duty, and special events.** The only exceptions to these requirements are found in .30 When Use is Not Required, .35 Use in Undercover Operations, and .40 Restrictions on BWC Use.

- When responding to/on a call for service, whether it is citizen-generated or officer-generated. **Officers will activate recording prior to arrival at the call;**
- Entering into or upon any premises for the purpose of enforcing the law;
- During any welfare check;
- During any interaction with a member of the public, whether consensual or non-consensual, for the purpose of enforcing the law or investigating a possible violation of the law. The “purpose of enforcing the law” is to be interpreted broadly; for example, it broadly includes interactions with suspects, detainees, and arrestees. If an officer is unsure whether the use of BWC is required in a specific interaction, the officer should record it.

- The entirety of a show-up identification, to include recording the subject's appearance, the location/conditions of the show-up, and the admonition being administered by a peace officer. (C.R.S. § 16-1-110(3)(a)(XI)(B));
- The display of a photo array identification, to include the instructions given to and the responses provided by a witness;
- Any live line-up identification, to include the procedure and the confidence statement;
- During the execution of any search, including the entry, physical search, and collection of evidence. This does not include the processing of evidence at a law enforcement facility; and
- When entering a holding cell, when transporting an arrestee, when booking an arrestee into jail and other custodial circumstances; except that officers are only required to record during guard duty at a medical facility when directly interacting with the person in custody.

Once activated, the BWC must remain on continuously until the officer reasonably believes their direct participation in the incident is complete or the situation no longer fits the criteria outlined above.

Privacy Concerns

Officers may, but are not required to, advise citizens that they are being recorded. If a citizen asks whether an event is being recorded, officers will answer truthfully, unless doing so would place the officer or another in jeopardy or potentially compromise an investigation.

Recordings of areas/situations that create substantial privacy concerns (e.g., videos depicting nudity, medical information, personal identifying information, hospital/school environments, etc.) are required to be recorded. If necessary, at a later time, these videos will be redacted and/or released by Digital Evidence Management Unit (DEMU) personnel in accordance with department policy and Colorado law.

Take-Home Vehicles

Officers assigned take-home vehicles are on-call for emergency response. Officers will have all their duty equipment available to them for an emergency callout, including their assigned BWC. Any officer in take home vehicle, whether on or off-duty or traveling to and from work, will be expected to utilize their BWC if they engage in any activity outlined above.

Off-Duty Enforcement

There are no exceptions identified in the Colorado BWC law regarding an officer intervening in an incident off-duty. Officers should refer to [GO 407 Off-Duty Enforcement Action](#) regarding engaging in off-duty enforcement. Officers should determine whether the exigency and severity

of the circumstances warrants immediate action without a BWC to prevent or reduce public harm.

.30 When Use is Not Required

This section applies to sworn personnel only.

- Recording may be stopped during significant periods of inactivity such as during report writing, standing on a static traffic control point during scene security, or other breaks from direct participation in an incident.
- Officers may mute or stop the BWC during administrative, tactical, and management discussions, only when citizens are not present. In the interest of later supporting the decisions made during high-risk activities (e.g., search warrant planning, high risk suspect apprehension, etc.), officers are encouraged to use their BWC to record discussions related to their decision-making process.
- Officers are not required to BWC record community events or public meetings (e.g., Neighborhood Watch meetings, Community Relations events, public ceremonies, etc.), unless law enforcement or investigative action becomes necessary.
- Officers conducting interviews in a room specifically designated as a fully equipped interview room with audio and video recording inside a law enforcement facility do not need to record the interview using their issued BWC if they record it using the room's equipment.
- **Officers are not required to record telephone calls using a BWC, but calls involving investigative statements may be recorded.**
- Officers in close proximity of a suspected explosive device (within 300 feet) will not utilize any electronic device, including a BWC. This exception must be articulated in the case report to explain why BWC was not utilized during any portion of the incident.
- An officer involved in a critical incident, once removed from the immediate scene where they have no further involvement in the incident or investigation, may terminate their BWC recording.
- Officers will not record administrative contacts victim advocates or chaplains have with victims for the purpose of providing services. Officers will record any investigative steps taken such as interviews or pretext phone calls, even when an advocate or chaplain may be present.

.35 Use in Undercover Operations

This section applies to sworn personnel only.

Officers should not video record the faces of undercover officers or confidential informants whenever possible.

Officers working in an undercover capacity as defined in department policy are exempt from using a BWC when the intention is for the UC officer to conceal their identity as a law enforcement officer.

Undercover officers will use their BWC, as required in section .25 of this policy, when they are identifying themselves as a peace officer through verbal or non-verbal means (e.g., wearing identifying apparel, displaying a badge). Examples of situations in which undercover officers must wear and activate the BWC include, but are not limited to, during the execution of a search warrant, attempting an arrest, or when conducting interviews of witnesses or suspects, etc.

.40 Use by Civilian Forensic Interviewers

Civilian interviewers assigned to the Forensic Interview Unit (FIU) are issued a body camera for the purposes of recording investigative contacts.

Civilian forensic interviewers are not required to wear a body camera and will use the devices only in situations where a contact needs to be recorded and acceptable video recording equipment is either not available (e.g. – child interview at a school, etc.) or the interviewer believes the body camera will more effectively capture the contact.

Civilian interviewers using body cameras for these purposes will follow the same submission and retention requirements as sworn personnel.

.45 Restrictions on BWC Use

The BWC will not be used to record the following situations, unless in exigent or emergency circumstances:

- Communications with other police personnel without their knowledge, unless authorized by the Chief of Police or their designee.
- When on a break or otherwise engaged in personal activities.

.50 Failure or Improper Use

This section applies to sworn personnel only.

Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-31-902(1)(a)(III), there is a permissive inference of misconduct by an officer whenever there is missing BWC footage as a result of an officer failing to activate the BWC when required. It is the responsibility of the officer to ensure their camera is activated.

Officers who fail to activate a BWC as required by law, or whose recording inadvertently stops during a recording, will document those circumstances in their incident/criminal report as to why

a recording was not made or was terminated. Supervisors are required to initiate either a level one or level two investigation, depending on circumstances under which the BWC was not activated or not recording in violation of this policy.

Intentional Failures and Tampering

Officers who intentionally fail to activate and use a BWC or tamper with a BWC are subject to several potential consequences, including:

- Damage to the prosecution of any criminal case
- Department discipline, up to and including termination. Supervisors are required to initiate a level two investigation regarding allegations of an intentional failure to activate and use BWC when it was required or tampering with BWC.
- Suspension or revocation of peace officer certification through Colorado P.O.S.T. pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-31-902

.55 Body Worn Camera Administration

The Digital Evidence Management Unit (DEMU), formerly the Body Worn Camera Unit, is responsible for administration of digital multimedia evidence collected via body worn camera or other methods with the department's BWC and digital evidence vendor. Personnel needing assistance with digital evidence will contact the DEMU for assistance.

.56 Body Worn Camera Replacement & Return

The Technology Team is responsible for issuance, maintenance, tracking, inventory, and return/replacement of all body-worn camera equipment. Because all sworn personnel are required to use BWC, Technology Team members are available 24/7 to assist with BWC issues.

If a department member experiences BWC equipment issues during business hours, they will contact an on-duty Technology Team member for assistance. If a department member experiences BWC equipment issues after business hours or on the weekend, they will contact a supervisor. The supervisor will contact the 24/7 on-call Technology Team member for immediate assistance.

Lost or Damaged Devices

Officers will immediately report lost or damaged devices to their chain of command. A supervisor will then immediately notify a Technology Team member, who will replace the device and inactivate the lost/damaged item.

Damaged items must be returned to the Technology Team for replacement with the department's vendor.

Termination of Employment

When an officer leaves CSPD employment, they will turn in all body worn camera equipment to a Technology Team member.

Inventory & Tracking

The Technology Team and Digital Evidence Management Unit sergeant is responsible for overall management of the department's body worn camera and digital evidence devices and software. The sergeant will ensure an up-to-date inventory and return/replacement process is tracked in the vendor's provided platform.

.60 Body Worn Camera Livestreaming & Voice Communications

All department BWCs are equipped with the ability to remotely watch a livestream and initiate voice communication with any device. Department personnel in the following positions are authorized to watch a livestream at any time when that viewing is for official purposes:

- Any sworn supervisor
- Any Communications Center supervisor
- Any member of the Real Time Crime Center
- Any member of the Homicide Unit, Crime Against Children Unit, Digital Forensics Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, or Forensic Interview Unit, when the livestream is for the purposes of furthering a criminal investigation (e.g., a child crimes detective at the POC livestreams a forensic interview of a child at a school, a homicide detective livestreams a scene walkthrough, etc.).

Use of livestream is encouraged in situations where supervisory consultation or guidance is needed but is not necessary on-scene, where department efficiency can be gained without compromising investigative integrity, decision making, or work quality, or where evidence or investigative contamination can be avoided.

Livestream cannot be used in the place of an on-scene supervisor when any department written directive requires an on-scene response by a supervisor (e.g., use of force).

BWC devices will notify a user when a livestream is being initiated, which can only occur when a device is actively recording. A user receiving a livestream request is prohibited from denying it unless they are in an area where their privacy is protected by law (e.g., using the restroom).

When feasible, a department member activating a livestream will notify the user prior to initiation. Otherwise, the activating member will notify the user as soon as safely possible.