



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1020-41 Liquor Enforcement

Section 1000 – Patrol Functions

Effective Date: 5/11/2021

Supersedes Date: 12/29/2008

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to define the philosophy and scope of activities of patrol members involved in the enforcement of laws and ordinances dealing with licensed liquor establishments.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1077 Issuing Summonses & Complaints](#)

[NARC-02 Liquor Enforcement Compliance Audits](#)

.03 Definitions

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.04 Procedure

It is the policy of the patrol divisions of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) to emphasize the enforcement of liquor laws that directly affect the level of disorder in the community, and the number of drunk drivers on the road.

Within the limits of available staffing resources, officers are encouraged to regularly check licensed liquor establishments within their assigned areas. These checks will emphasize the enforcement of city ordinances and state statutes dealing with the following issues:

- The possession, consumption, purchase, or attempted purchase of liquor involving persons under 21 years of age.
- The sale of liquor to obviously intoxicated persons.
- The sale to or the possession of liquor by patrons after licensed hours.
- The removal of liquor purchased "by the drink" from licensed premises, in compliance with applicable law.

- Liquor and/or criminal violations in parking lot areas of liquor establishments, in compliance with applicable law.

Patrol should include periodic checks of liquor establishments located within each area command. Under the provisions of [GO 1077 Citations](#) of the CSPD, officers have the discretion to cite or warn a liquor violator. However, repeated violations will be cited into court.

Within the constraints of available staffing resources, and when officers are not assigned to a higher priority directed activity, shift supervisors will periodically assign officers to directed activities specifically targeting liquor violations. Special attention will be given to locations and establishments that have reports of repeated liquor violations.

Each patrol division will designate a sergeant to oversee liquor enforcement activities. The sergeant will coordinate liquor enforcement activities within their respective patrol division. An example of this coordination is the assignment of officers to conduct bar checks and to serve as contact points for the owners of the liquor establishments located within the division. All documentation associated with liquor enforcement activities will be routed to the sergeant assigned to oversee liquor enforcement activities.

More specialized enforcement activities such as investigations involving plainclothes officers and the investigation of more technical violations, such as adult use violations, will be approved through the division commander and coordinated through the Metro VNI Liquor Enforcement Detail.

Enforcement of regulatory provisions (e.g., non-criminal matters), such as fire code violations and the like will be the responsibility of the agency officially designated to handle such matters (for instance, the fire department). Information on such violations will be forwarded, through the chain of command, to the appropriate regulatory agency.