

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE			Policy and Procedure
General Administration		P&P-A-100	
Office Structure			
Effective Date: 01-06-25 Supersedes 06-27-23	Approval: Sheriff	Number of Pages: 6	
References: CRS 16-2.5-101, PP-O-100, PP-L-100, 16-2.5-102, & 16-2.5-103	Reevaluation Date: Annually or as needed Reviewed	Standards: CALEA LE 1.1.1, LE 1.1.2, LE 1.2.1, LE 1.2.2, LE 11.1.1, LE 11.2.1, LE 11.3.1, LE 11.3.2, LE 12.1.2, LE 12.1.3, LE 12.1.4, COM 2.2.2, ACA 7D-06, 7D-07 5 th Edition	

I. RELEVANT STATUTES

16-2.5-101 C.R.S. *Peace Officer – description – general authority*

II. AUTHORITY OF MANUAL

The Policies and Procedures set forth in this manual are for the guidance and direction of all members and employees of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. They take effect on the date specified on the heading of each order and will contain a date when revisions are necessary.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Civilian Employee

Any regularly compensated member of the Office not commissioned as a certified peace officer by this Office.

Deputy Sheriff (also see Peace Officer and Sheriff, Undersheriff, and a Deputy Sheriff)

Any regularly compensated commissioned personnel of this Office that maintains the statutory requirements of C.R.S. 16-2.5-102. *Certified peace officer – P.O.S.T. certification required.* and is commissioned by the Sheriff. <LE 1.2.1><LE 1.2.2>

Employee

Employee, when used alone, shall mean any regularly compensated member of this Office, both commissioned and civilian.

May

When used in instructions means permissive.

Member

Includes all Office employees, reserve personnel, and volunteers.

Nonexempt

Nonexempt employees have an employment classification in which they are paid on an hourly basis and are eligible to receive overtime pay for overtime hours worked.

Peace Officer (Also See Sheriff, Undersheriff, and a Deputy Sheriff)

All members of the Office commissioned by the Sheriff pursuant to the authority of Colorado Law, with authority to enforce laws and carry firearms granted under C.R.S. 16-2.5-101, *Peace Officer – description – general authority.* <LE 1.2.1><LE 1.2.2>

Reserve Deputy Sheriff

Includes all non-compensated members of this Office. Includes all reserve organizations, which are authorized by the Sheriff. <LE [1.2.1](#)>

Shall

When used in instructions means mandatory.

Sheriff, Undersheriff, and a Deputy Sheriff (also see Peace Officer and Deputy Sheriff)

All members of the Office commissioned by the Sheriff pursuant to the authority of Colorado Law, with authority to enforce laws and carry firearms granted under C.R.S. 16-2.5-101, *Peace Officer – description – general authority*. The Sheriff, the Undersheriff, and a Deputy Sheriff are specifically codified as peace officers under C.R.S. 16-2.5-103. <LE [1.2.1](#)><LE [1.2.2](#)>

Exempt Employee

Full-time employees (FTE) who have an employment classification as exempt and are paid on a salary basis are not eligible to receive overtime pay.

Essential

Positions classified as essential provide a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week service, i.e., commissioned members, detention specialists, dispatchers, and crime technicians. The Accrual of vacation benefits is affected by this classification. Some administrative positions, although meeting the above criteria are not deemed essential due to their assigned tasks and responsibilities.

IV. USE OF TERMS

Tense

The present tense shall also include the past and future.

Gender

The masculine gender includes all genders.

Plurality

The singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular.

Discretion

Shall, *will*, and *must* are mandatory; *should* and *may* are permissive.

V. OFFICE SUCCESSION – RANK IN ORDER OF SUCCESSION <LE [11.1.1](#)>

Sheriff (Executive Officer)

Undersheriff (Executive Officer)

Professional Standards Division Chief (Executive Officer)

Investigations Division Chief (Executive Officer)

Highlands Ranch Special Operations Division Chief (Executive Officer)

Patrol Division Chief (Executive Officer)

Detentions Division Chief (Executive Officer)

Support Services Division Chief (Executive Officer)

VI. RANK

Office personnel are distinguished by rank, which is assigned in terms of the level of responsibility within the Chain of Command (COC). Each member's level of responsibility is accompanied by the commensurate authority necessary for the effective execution of their responsibilities. The individual in charge of a scene shall be the member with the highest rank who is on-duty and has been given direct responsibility for handling the situation. Incident Command protocol will be followed to effectively manage the incident.

<LE [11.3.1a](#)><LE [12.1.2b](#)>

VII. AUTHORITY OF RANK

The authority delegated or granted to Office personnel is generally confined to their respective area of responsibility. This may also include supervision over any subordinate members of the Office when necessary for efficient administration or when the conduct of the subordinate members is contrary to Office Policy and Procedures. This authority will be exercised with the utmost discretion. Supervisors having rank should avoid giving direct commands to personnel not assigned to their control, except when required to do so in an emergency or for the good of the Office. When such action is required, the respective supervisor should be informed immediately. <LE [12.1.2c](#)><LE [12.1.2d](#)>

VIII. SUPERVISORS

Employees designated as supervisors by virtue of their rank or position shall, in conformance with Office Policy and Procedures, be responsible for the work and conduct of subordinate personnel. <LE [11.3.2](#)>

- A. Supervisors shall prepare performance evaluations for each member under their direct supervision at such intervals, and upon such form, as may be required by the Sheriff.
- B. Supervisors shall call all matters of importance to the attention of their immediate supervisor or commanding officer.
- C. Supervisors shall by assignment, prior to completing their tour of duty, inform the supervisory staff coming on the duty of any significant events.

IX. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Office functions that are similar or related in purpose, process, or methods, when possible, shall be grouped together in one or more sections, or divisions, under the control of an Office supervisor.

X. DELINEATION OF FUNCTIONS

Lines of demarcation between the divisions are clearly drawn by a precise definition of duties and responsibilities, which are made known to all employees so that responsibility is accurately placed.

XI. ORGANIZATION FOR COMMAND

Lines of control are established in conformity with the official organization of the Office to permit delegation of authority, place responsibility, provide for supervision of operations, and provide for coordination of effort.

XII. CHAIN OF COMMAND (COC)

The Chain of Command (COC) shall be respected in all matters. Information and communication shall move up and down through channels, or horizontally with prior approval. It shall be the responsibility of each level to forward information and communications to the next higher or lower level, together with approval, disapproval, recommendation, or action taken unless indicated otherwise by Office Policy or Procedures. This section does not prevent Executive Command Staff from having discussions with any member of this Office and is viewed as healthy for the organization. <LE [12.1.4](#)>

XIII. UNITY OF COMMAND

Each division, section, unit, and individual employee of this office is under the immediate control of one person. Each executive, command staff member, manager, and supervisor are responsible for the acts of their subordinates. <LE [11.2.1](#)><LE [11.3.2](#)>

XIV. MANNER OF EXERCISING AUTHORITY

Authority in the Office shall be exercised with kindness, firmness, justice, fairness, respect, and reason.

XV. DELEGATION OF COMMENSURATE AUTHORITY

Supervisors shall make suitable and clearly defined delegation of authority so that maximum efficiency may be achieved. Employees directed to act in capacities above their ordinary rank or classification shall possess the authority of the higher rank or classification for the necessary period of time as designated by an employee of higher authority and shall be held accountable for the exercise of such authority. <LE [11.3.1b](#)><COM [1.1.5](#)>

XVI. CONFLICT OF ORDERS

All members are required to obey the lawful order of a superior, including orders that are relayed by a member of equal or lesser rank. In the event of a conflict of orders, employees shall respectfully call such a conflict to the attention of the supervisor giving the last order. Should the latter not change the order, the order shall be obeyed. The employee shall not be held responsible for disobedience of any former order or for any violation of procedures in obeying the last order given. <LE [12.1.3](#)>

XVII. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETION

The supervisor is responsible for achieving essential objectives. When achieving objectives, supervisors have the authorization to delegate their authority; however, they may not delegate responsibility.

XVIII. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

See [P&P-O-100 Organization Charts](#) <7D-06>

XIX. SUPERVISORY STRATIFICATION IN ORDER OF AUTHORITY

Sheriff (*Executive Officer*)

Undersheriff (*Executive Officer*)

Division Chief (*Professional Standards, Investigations, Highlands Ranch Special Operations, Patrol, Detentions and Support Services*)

Commander of Internal Affairs

Commander/Civilian Managers
Sergeant/Civilian Supervisors
Corporals/Acting Supervisors
<LE [11.1.1](#)><7D-07>

XX. SENIORITY

A. Command

When a question of seniority arises regarding who shall be in command, seniority shall be determined:

- First, by rank.
- Second, if members are of equal rank, one member is designated as in command, either by job assignment or by supervisory stratification order of authority of (XIX).
- Third, by continuous service in the Sheriff's Office, at the rank in question.
- Fourth, if the continuous service in rank is the same then by OSN.

B. Administrative Functions

The Office recognizes seniority for these administrative functions as follows:

1. Shift bidding.

- First, by rank.
- Second, if members are of equal rank, then by time in rank
- Third, if members are of equal rank and time, then by the ranking order of the official promotional posting. Absent a promotional posting, then by OSN.
- If a demotion or change in employee type has occurred, the amount of time at the reduced rank or status should be addressed as part of the disciplinary process, giving the ability to appeal. A seniority date may be created to reflect the time for the demotion or employee status and is effective on the month/day of the year they returned to their current rank. This is separate from the original OSNs. This is for shift bidding only and does not affect the years of continuous service for vacation bidding.
- Promotions after demotion shall be determined at the time of the promotion and should reference any decisions made in the above section on demotions. A promotion to a previously held rank or employee type does not automatically entitle the promoted member to their former shift bidding seniority date. If not covered during the demotion, the time at the lower rank or status will be subtracted from the previous time held at the promoted rank when going from commissioned to civilian and then promoting back to the commissioned role.
- When a civilian employee is promoted to the rank of Deputy Cadet, to attend a DCSO sponsored law enforcement academy, their seniority for the rank of a deputy shall begin the date they are sworn in as a deputy sheriff.
- When determining time in rank, time is calculated from the employee's current position (commissioned or non-commissioned rank) and is not necessarily synonymous with the time of hire with the Sheriff's Office. Civilian staff is generally calculated from the time of hire with the Office and commissioned staff from either the time of commission or promotion. Although the Office recognizes administrative seniority, the Sheriff or Executive Command Staff may at any time supersede administrative seniority.

2. Vacation bidding

- First, by rank.
- Second, if members are of equal rank, then by continuous service with the Sheriff's Office.
- Third, if members are of equal rank and continuous service then by OSN.
- When determining seniority for vacation bidding among members of equal rank, the employee's *continuous service date* of hire with the Sheriff's Office will determine their seniority.

C. Service Insignia

- The Douglas County Sheriff's Office also recognizes an employee's service in law enforcement by the wearing of a gold-colored 'serving since' nameplate that is worn on the uniform. The 'serving since' date will be determined by the employee's earliest date of continuous employment with Douglas County Government, including appointment as a reserve deputy sheriff.
- Commissioned members are authorized to wear hash marks on their class A uniforms. Hash marks distinguish the employee's total law enforcement service for any recognized commissioned law enforcement agency including military police.

XXI. OATH OF OFFICE

Additionally, any person appointed by the Sheriff to the position of Deputy Sheriff as a Peace Officer in the State of Colorado, County of Douglas will take the oath as follows upon appointment:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear, in the presence of the ever-living God, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Deputy Sheriff to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God". <LE [1.1.1](#)><LE [1.2.1](#)>

XXII. CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office share equally in a commitment to its mission, goals, and objectives, and are bound to the letter and spirit of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. <LE [1.1.2](#)><COM [2.2.2](#)>

By Order of the Sheriff