

CODE OF ETHICS

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide all personnel with a written code of ethics.
2. **POLICY:** A formally adopted Code of Ethics will be maintained to guide all personnel in maintaining high standards of ethical conduct.
3. **SCOPE:** This directive is applicable to all personnel.
4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All personnel will be responsible for complying with this directive.
5. **PROCEDURE:** All personnel employed by the Huntsville Police Department shall abide by the following Code of Ethics.
6. **TRAINING:** Ethics training shall be conducted for all personnel at a minimum of biennially.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a sworn officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community by safeguarding lives and property against threats that could take advantage of or harm members of my community or otherwise impact peace and order. I will uphold the Constitution and honor the rights of all to life, liberty, equality, and justice. I will never employ unnecessary force. I will respect the privacy of people and communities that I serve, and I will fully obey the laws that I am sworn to enforce.

I will live by example, remembering that my character and conduct, on-duty and off, directly influence the legitimacy of the policing profession. I will exercise self-restraint and maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, and ridicule and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others as well as my own well-being.

I will never act officiously or permit bias or personal gain to influence my decisions. I will strive to protect the vulnerable from harm. If this fails, I will seek to identify and apprehend offenders, professionally and appropriately holding them to account. I will not solicit or accept any gifts, bribes, or anything of value from any person or entity that may create a perception of benefit or influence as a public servant.

I recognize my shield of office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will not engage in or condone acts of corruption, take advantage of circumstances for personal gain, or accept gratuities, and I promise to intervene when met with any unjustifiable acts by members of my profession. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own professional performance and conduct and will

take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these principles, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession – Law Enforcement.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE CODE OF ETHICS

As a Huntsville Police Department civilian employee, it is my duty and responsibility to serve the community and provide professional support for Departmental operations. I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner which does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feeling, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating my efforts toward ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the Huntsville Police Department.