

Mobile Data Terminal Use

446.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper access, use and application of the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) system in order to ensure appropriate access to confidential records from local, state and national law enforcement databases, and to ensure effective electronic communications between department members and Central Communications.

446.2 POLICY

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office members using the MDT shall comply with all appropriate federal and state rules and regulations and shall use the MDT in a professional manner, in accordance with this policy.

446.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to messages accessed, transmitted, received or reviewed on any department technology system (see the Information Technology Use Policy for additional guidance).

446.4 RESTRICTED ACCESS AND USE

MDT use is subject to the Information Technology Use and Protected Information policies.

Members shall not access the MDT system if they have not received prior authorization and the required training. Members shall immediately report unauthorized access or use of the MDT by another member to their supervisors or Shift Sergeants.

Use of the MDT system to access law enforcement databases or transmit messages is restricted to official activities, business-related tasks and communications that are directly related to the business, administration or practices of the Department. In the event that a member has questions about sending a particular message or accessing a particular database, the member should seek prior approval from his/her supervisor.

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the MDT system is prohibited and may result in discipline.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message or access a law enforcement database under another member's name or to use the password of another member to log in to the MDT system unless directed to do so by a supervisor. Members are required to log off the MDT or secure the MDT when it is unattended. This added security measure will minimize the potential for unauthorized access or misuse.

446.4.1 USE WHILE DRIVING

Use of the MDT by the vehicle operator should be limited to times when the vehicle is stopped. Information that is required for immediate enforcement, investigative, tactical or safety needs should be transmitted over the radio.

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

Mobile Data Terminal Use

The operator may send or review short messages or review the map while the vehicle is in motion and shall ensure extra caution is taken to prevent unsafe driving conditions. In no case shall an operator attempt to send or review lengthy messages while the vehicle is in motion.

446.5 EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

446.5.1 MALFUNCTIONING MDT

Whenever possible, members will not use vehicles with malfunctioning MDTs. Whenever members must drive a vehicle in which the MDT is not working, they shall notify Central Communications. Members shall report any malfunctions, including but not limited to the vehicle location system (AVL), to their supervisor as soon as possible. Supervisors shall ensure any repair or replacement is completed as soon as feasible.