



MARYLAND STATE POLICE PERSONNEL DIRECTIVE



Oath of Office and Code of Ethics

Distribution: All <u>Employees</u>	Index: PER 17.01
DLI Reference: N/A	Rescinds: Chapter 7, Sec. II & PER 17.04
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.01 Purpose

To outline the Oath of Office and the Code of Ethics for employees.

.02 Policy

Employees will abide by the Oath of Office and the Code of Ethics as outlined in this directive. This policy is required to be signed by all employees through the PowerDMS.

.03 References

[MD. CODE ANN., GEN PROV. § 5-101, et seq.](#)

[International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\), LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS](#)

.04 CALEA Standards

LE:	1.1.1 1.1.2	TA:	N/A	CM:	N/A
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.05 Procedures

A. Oath of Office and Sanctity of Life Pledge - Applicable to Troopers

All troopers, prior to assuming a sworn status, will take and subsequently abide by the Oath of Office which reads as follows:

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America and to the State of Maryland; that I will serve honestly and faithfully to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of Maryland; that I will enforce the laws of the State of Maryland; and that I will obey the orders of the Governor and of the Officers appointed over me according to the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Police.

I pledge to respect every human life and act with compassion towards others.

Oath of Office and Code of Ethics

B. State Ethics Requirements - Applicable to All Employees

1. All State employees are bound by the Maryland Public Ethics Law ([MD. CODE ANN., GEN. PROV. § 5-101, et seq.](#)).
2. Information about the Maryland Public Ethics Law may be found on the State Ethics Commission's website.

C. Code of Ethics - Applicable to Troopers

The MSP has adopted a Code of Ethics based on the IACP model which reads as follows:

As a trooper, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or the MSP. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and 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 laws of the land and the regulations of the MSP. 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 will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my 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 never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other law enforcement officers. 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 standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession as a Maryland State Trooper.

D. Ethics Training

The Commander of the Education and Training Division will ensure all employees receive biennial ethics training.

Approved:

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III
Superintendent 06/24/2021