



Chapter: Member Conduct and Authority
Subject: 02-15 – Communications During Criminal Cases
Effective: April 19, 2022
Supersedes: Official Order 34, Section 34.4.5, dated February 24, 2021
Distribution: Department Members

PURPOSE: This Order establishes department policy concerning member communication with interested parties regarding criminal matters being handled by the department or other law enforcement agencies being assisted by the department.

02-15-1 COMMUNICATIONS DURING A CRIMINAL CASE

- A. Members shall respond to all communications from the prosecutor as soon as practical. Requests for information shall be answered on or before any deadline given by the prosecutor.
- B. Members may be contacted by a defendant, defendant’s attorney, or defendant’s investigator to talk about the case. Members are not required to talk to such individuals prior to testifying in court and shall not do so unless the member contacts the prosecutor assigned to the case and provides an opportunity for him or her to be present at the time of the interview.
- C. All communications with the public, including the news media, shall be in accordance with the policies outlined in written directives governing media relations. Questions regarding communications with the media regarding a criminal case shall be referred to the Public Affairs Section.
- D. Members may be contacted by the prosecutor or defense attorney to discuss a defendant pleading to a lesser charge in a criminal case. Members shall not become involved in these negotiations and shall not provide advice or recommendations on any proposed plea bargain or reduction of charges.

DIRECTOR

Annual Review Responsibility: Transparency and Accountability Division

Accreditation Standards: CALEA TBD