

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



GENERAL ORDER

Effective Date: November 6, 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends - GO 20.1.13 (June 1, 2022)	Number: 20.1.13
Distribution: All Personnel	Review Month: September	Reviewing Authority: SSD/Quality Assurance
Subject: Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Committee		

This order consists of the following:

1. Purpose
2. Policy
3. Procedures

1. Purpose

Law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve greatly benefit from a cooperative relationship supported by constructive dialogue and mutual respect. The purpose of this policy is to encourage such a relationship in Orange County by establishing a multidisciplinary committee to consider substantive concerns of the general public about Sheriff's Office policies and procedures. The committee's mandate is twofold: (1) to provide a forum for dialogue between citizens and law enforcement; and (2) to review policies and procedures and provide recommendations.

2. Policy

Community support is mission-critical to the Orange County Sheriff's Office. It is the policy of the agency to continually cultivate productive working relationships with citizens and other stakeholders within the community.

3. Procedures

A. Composition

1. The Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Committee shall include seven members who are appointed by the Sheriff and serve on a voluntary basis without compensation.
2. Committee members must be legal residents of or employed in Orange County Florida. Committee members must be at least 21 years of age and have not been convicted of a felony or crime of moral character.
3. The collective bargaining union may nominate a person for committee membership. This committee member is exempt from the residency or employment requirements above.
4. To support the mission of the committee by providing appropriate expertise, its membership should reflect a variety of occupations (e.g. clergy, education, tourism). One member is required to be a retired law enforcement officer. Attention should be given to all forms of diversity to achieve broad community representation.

5. Nominees must successfully pass an OCSO Fasttrack Volunteer background investigation to qualify for service on the committee.
 6. Committee members shall not be an OCSO employee, an immediate family member of an OCSO employee, or hold a political office.
 7. Individuals who are pursuing claims against, or defending, law enforcement agencies in legal proceedings or before a legislative body, whether as parties, counsel, or lobbyists, are ineligible to serve on the committee.
 8. A committee member who is concerned about maintaining objectivity in a particular review shall be removed from that review.
 9. Each committee member serves at the pleasure of the Sheriff. The Sheriff expects members to attend at least 70% of all scheduled meetings.
 10. A committee member may resign at any time by notifying the Sheriff.
- B. Mandate
1. The Sheriff may refer public questions or concerns regarding agency policies and procedures to the committee for consideration. The committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the policies and procedures to determine whether the review presents an opportunity for learning and constructive change.
 2. Any member of the public may refer a question to the Sheriff regarding policies and procedures for possible committee consideration via email at ocsocitizensadvisorycommittee@ocsofl.com
 3. The committee shall evaluate the email concerns of community members, have dialogue with law enforcement, and obtain relevant information about policies and procedures.
 4. The agency will provide the committee with available subject matter experts.
- C. Other Basic Guidelines
1. The members of the committee are tasked with carrying out their responsibilities in an unbiased and professional manner using independent judgment.
 2. The committee shall offer recommendations to the Sheriff on policies and procedures which will be forwarded to the Sheriff.
- D. OCSO Responsibilities
1. The agency will provide the committee with administrative support and will coordinate meetings.

2. The Accreditation/Quality Assurance Section Commander shall serve as the agency liaison to the committee.
3. The agency will conduct an orientation session for new committee members that will include basic instruction on law enforcement operations.
4. The agency will provide the committee with additional training on law enforcement topics.
5. The agency shall take meeting minutes including the Sheriff's responses to recommendations and post to [ocso.com](https://www.ocso.com).