
OATHS OF OFFICE AND COMMISSIONS

Policy #202-R06 (09/14/21)

Applies to all staff.

1. Sheriff's Office Employees, and Volunteers with Law Enforcement Responsibilities, are Required to Swear to an Oath of Office and be Commissioned Commensurate with Assigned Duties.

Employees must affirm that they will uphold the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Oregon and enforce state law, Washington County ordinances, and agency rules and regulations.

Any restrictions or limitations on law enforcement authority are outlined in a statement of authority attached to the employee's oath of office.

2. A Peace Officer Commission is Granted to Certified Deputies of Any Rank Employed by the Sheriff's Office.

This includes retirees who return to work or other temporary employees working in certified deputy positions.

3. A Special Deputy Commission with Limitation is Granted to all Non-Certified Employees of the Sheriff's Office.

Limitations and authority are described in the Oath of Office.

4. A Reserve Deputy Sheriff Commission with Restrictions is Granted to Volunteers with Peace Officer Authority.

5. A Retiree Commission with No Expiration is Granted to Peace Officers Who Have Honorably Retired or Separated from the WCSO.

This commission authorizes the bearer to carry a concealed firearm consistent with the rules, regulations and laws governing carrying and display. Retirees will not be scheduled for regular duty but may be called upon to volunteer in case of emergency. To qualify as honorably separated, the person must be qualified under LEOSA, including having at least 10 years of law enforcement service.

See also:

HR 218 Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act ("LEOSA"), *as Amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013*

ORS 166.250, *Unlawful possession of firearms*

ORS 166.260, *Persons not affected by ORS 166.250*

6. A Limited Commission is Granted to WCSO Volunteers or Outside Agency Personnel Who Enforce Specific Codes and Statutes.

Limitations and authority are described in the statement of authority attached to the person's oath of office.

Supersedes: 202-R05 (01/31/19)

Position responsible for updates: Sheriff

CALEA: 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 11.3.1

7. All Commissions and Identification Cards Expire With the Sheriff's Term of Office.

Exception: Retiree commissions and cards do not expire (see #5 above).

8. The Sheriff May Revoke Commissions for WCSO Volunteers or Non-Sheriff's Office Personnel at Any Time.**9. The Sheriff May Revoke or Suspend Commissions for Employees After Due Process Compliance with Personnel Rules and Labor Agreements.****10. The Sheriff May Suspend Commissions and Request the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to Suspend Certifications of Employees Who Will be out of the Office, on Modified Duty, or Otherwise Unable to Keep up with Training Requirements for 90 Days or Longer.****11. A Person May Not Act Under More Than One Commission, Nor Hold Commissions With Similar Duties or Authority.**

- With command officer approval, an employee may participate as a volunteer in a WCSO volunteer program.
- This is only permitted if the volunteer responsibilities or duties are completely unrelated and different than the person's employed position.
- The employee/volunteer must maintain complete separation of their roles and respective commissions.

12. Changes in Limited Commissions or Restrictions on Authority Must be Formally Conveyed Through the Swearing of a New Oath of Office and Statement of Authority.

A person's attendance at advanced training does not suggest or imply any change to their commission or authority.

REFERENCES:

- ORS 181.630, Procedure for Denial, Suspension or Revocation of Application or Certification