

## **25.00.150 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE**

(CALEA 84.1.1)

The Disposition of Property/Evidence is a continuing process by the Property/Evidence Unit. This process ensures that items no longer required for prosecution or follow-up are released to the legal owner, retained for Department use, auctioned or destroyed.

Unless otherwise governed by provisions of law, the officer/detective assigned to the case has final authority regarding the disposition of property or evidence held by the Department.

In cases that are past the statute of limitations on low level crimes (such as motor vehicle prowls, burglaries, malicious mischief, theft, etc.) and where such cases have no investigative leads or associated cases, the police property and evidence supervisor may seek authorization from the division commander for final disposition of such property or evidence.

All Property/Evidence held in the Property/Evidence Unit will be challenged, at a minimum of:

- ❖ Felony crimes will be reviewed every 12 months
- ❖ Misdemeanors will be reviewed every 6 months
- ❖ Found Property and Property for Safekeeping will be reviewed every 60 days
- ❖ Property booked for disposal/destruction is reviewed immediately
- ❖ Other Property/Evidence not covered above will be processed according to Department policy or legal authority
- ❖ The Property Evidence Manual details the preferred procedures for release, conversion, auction and destruction of Property/Evidence

### **Disposition of Contraband and Weapons**

Property that is contraband will be destroyed.

Firearms and other weapons will be disposed of as follows:

- ❖ Unclaimed or forfeited firearms, not retained by the Department for use in accordance with relevant statutes, will be disposed of in accordance with RCW Chapter 9.41 and/or Chapter 63.32 RCW and Bellevue City Code.
- ❖ Other weapons not retained for use by the Department will be disposed of in accordance with Chapter 63.32 RCW and Bellevue City Code.