

 Official Policy Manual	Date issued	Supersedes	Page	Section #
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	Section:			
	Administration			
Directive:				
Officer Conduct and Ethics				
Policy Owner:				
Director, Administrative Support Services Group				

A. LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS ¹:

As a law enforcement officer, 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 discredit me or my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. 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 law enforcement service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other 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 with sincere and unfaltering commitment to my chosen profession...law enforcement.

¹ Law Enforcement Code of Ethics as adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) October 1957

B. STANDARDS OF SERVICE:

Safety Officers of the Office of Mental Health are required to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Officers are issued uniforms by the Office of Mental Health and are required to wear these uniforms and maintain them in a professional looking manner.

Officers should be fair to all persons. They should be non-judgmental and keep all information confidential. The function of the Officer is to protect and assist those in need whether they are patients, staff, or visitors.

C. OATH OF OFFICE:

OMH Safety Officers are sworn to enforce the law and uphold the federal and state constitutions along with the policies, rules, and regulations of the NYS Office of Mental Health.

Upon employment, all sworn employees shall be required to affirm the oath of office expressing commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights in discharging the duties of a law enforcement officer (NYS Public Officers Law §10 Official Oaths).