

# Oath of Office and Code of Ethics

**Index Code: 102**

**Effective Date: 04/15/09**

## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this written directive is to ensure that prior to assuming the duties of the Office of the Sheriff, the Sheriff and all Deputy Sheriffs will take and sign the oath or affirmation prescribed by the Maryland State Constitution.

## **II. Policy**

It is the policy of the Office of the Sheriff for Queen Anne's County to require all personnel, prior to assuming sworn status, to take and subsequently abide by the oath of office as prescribed in §2-104 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Said oath will be administered by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County.

## **III. Oath for the Office of the Sheriff for Queen Anne's County, Maryland:**

*I (Name), do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and Laws thereof; and that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the office of Sheriff or Queen Anne's County, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State.*

## **IV. Oath for the Office of the Deputy Sheriff for Queen Anne's County, Maryland:**

*I, (Name), do swear that I will not for lucre or malice delay any person applying to me for any business belonging to the office I officiate in and that I will not directly or indirectly ask, take, exact, demand or receive from, or charge to any such person to my own use any fee or reward whatsoever, for any service I may do as deputy of said office, and that in making out the office fees, I will not wittingly or willingly charge other or higher fees than allowed by law.*

## **V. Public Ethics Law**

All personnel, sworn and civilian are responsible for understanding and complying with the Public Ethics Laws. These laws contain minimum

standards of conduct to ensure that there are no conflicts between an employee's official duties and the employee's personal interests. By law, the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriffs must comply with Title 15, Public Ethics, as enumerated in the Annotated Code of Maryland. Civilian employees of the Office of the Sheriff must comply with Chapter 8, Ethics, as enumerated in the Code of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

## **VI. Law Enforcement Officers Code of Ethics**

In addition to the State and local ethics laws, sworn personnel will adhere to the Law Enforcement Officers Code of Ethics, which states:

*As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, and 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 people to liberty, equality and justice.*

*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule, develop self-restraint, and be constantly mindful for the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my agency. 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, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless 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 soliciting 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 the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession – law enforcement.*

**VII. Training**

Ethics training will be conducted for all personnel at least biennially. This training may consist of classroom training, roll call training, training bulletins, or any combination of these methods.

**VIII. CALEA Reference(s):** 1.1.1 & 1.2.2

**IX. Proponent Unit:** Office of the Sheriff

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Sheriff R. Gery Hofmann III