

Operation and Care of Agency Vehicles by Auxiliary Deputies

Index Code: 1402.1

Effective Date: 5/3/2021

I. Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for the operation, care, and servicing of vehicles owned, leased, or utilized by the Office of the Sheriff. This directive specifically applies to Auxiliary Deputies for the Office of the Sheriff.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the Office of the Sheriff to maintain and operate vehicles owned, leased, or utilized by the Office in a safe and efficient manner, and in conformance with applicable Maryland State laws. Only authorized personnel assigned to the Office of the Sheriff, or maintenance personnel authorized to conduct vehicular repairs, are allowed to operate or service agency vehicles.

III. Operation of Agency Vehicles

A. Operator Responsibilities

The following procedures apply to all Auxiliary Deputies when operating any agency vehicle.

1. Auxiliary Deputies must have in their possession a valid Maryland driver's license.
2. Auxiliary Deputies are required to operate agency vehicles in a safe, legal, and courteous manner at all times.
3. Auxiliary Deputies will not make traffic stops or respond to dispatched calls for service; however, if they observe a hazardous situation (i.e. disabled motor vehicle, motor vehicle collision, etc.) they may protect the scene from further incident by utilizing their assigned vehicle with all emergency lights activated.
4. Auxiliary Deputies will drive in a manner that is reasonable and prudent based on existing conditions, including but not limited to road and traffic conditions, maximum speed

limits, weather, presence of pedestrians, and performance capabilities of their vehicle.

5. Auxiliary Deputies will not drive, use, or park agency vehicles, on or off duty, so as to reflect unfavorably on the Office of the Sheriff.

6. Only authorized persons are allowed to ride in agency vehicles, unless necessary for the performance of duty or otherwise directed by a supervisor. Authorized persons generally include those employed by the Office of the Sheriff, the Queen Anne's County Government, and persons authorized under the ride-along program. Operators are responsible for the behavior of all passengers.

7. Auxiliary Deputies will not transport detainees but may accompany or assist a Deputy who is transporting a detainee if a second deputy is not available.

8. Agency vehicles may not be used to push or tow any other vehicle, except an approved trailer with properly installed hitch, or in an emergency situation.

9. Auxiliary Deputies using radio-equipped vehicles will not transmit within fifty feet of known electronic blasting areas or electronically detonated devices. Explosives that are normally associated with causing serious injury or damage (i.e. dynamite, nitroglycerin, etc.) will not be transported in agency vehicles. Minor types of explosive devices, such as ammunition and fireworks, may be transported in the trunk if considered safe to do so and they are not suspected of detonating inadvertently.

10. Auxiliary Deputies are prohibited from operating an agency vehicle within 8 hours after consuming an alcoholic beverage, or any medication that may impair the person's ability to operate a vehicle in a safe manner.