
Allegations of Misconduct/Personnel Complaints

1011.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to inform all employees and the public of procedures for reporting, receiving, investigating and dispositions of complaints regarding the conduct of licensed peace officers of the Jordan Police Department. The provisions of this policy are applicable only to the investigation and disposition of allegations of administrative conduct. This policy does not apply to a criminal investigation; MN Rules 6700.2200 through 6700.2600.

1011.2 POLICY

The Jordan Police Department adopts the MN POST model policy regarding allegations of misconduct against licensed peace officers.

[See attachment: MN POST Allegations of Misconduct 2021 Model Policy.pdf](#)

1011.3 ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

When a complaint of misconduct is of a serious nature, or when circumstances indicate that allowing the accused to continue to work would adversely affect the mission of the Department, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee may temporarily assign an accused employee to administrative leave. Any employee placed on administrative leave:

- (a) May be required to relinquish any department badge, identification, assigned weapons and any other department equipment.
- (b) Shall be required to continue to comply with all policies and lawful orders of a supervisor.
- (c) May be temporarily reassigned to a different shift, generally a normal business-hours shift, during the investigation. The employee may be required to remain available for contact at all times during such shift, and will report as ordered.

1011.4 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Where a member is accused of potential criminal conduct, a separate supervisor or investigator shall be assigned to investigate the criminal allegations apart from any administrative investigation. Any separate administrative investigation may parallel a criminal investigation.

The Chief of Police shall be notified as soon as practicable when a member is accused of criminal conduct. The Chief of Police may request a criminal investigation by an outside law enforcement agency.

A member accused of criminal conduct shall be provided with all rights afforded to a civilian. The member should not be administratively ordered to provide any information in the criminal investigation.

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The Jordan Police Department may release information concerning the arrest or detention of any member, including an officer, that has not led to a conviction. No disciplinary action should be taken until an independent administrative investigation is conducted.

The Chief of Police may postpone making a decision on an administrative investigation until any related criminal charges are resolved. The complainant and involved member should be informed of this decision.

1011.5 PRE-DISCIPLINE EMPLOYEE RESPONSE

The pre-discipline process is intended to provide the accused employee with an opportunity to present a written or oral response to the Chief of Police after having had an opportunity to review the supporting materials and prior to imposition of any recommended discipline. The employee shall consider the following:

- (a) The response is not intended to be an adversarial or formal hearing.
- (b) Although the employee may be represented by an uninvolved representative or legal counsel, the response is not designed to accommodate the presentation of testimony or witnesses.
- (c) The employee may suggest that further investigation could be conducted or the employee may offer any additional information or mitigating factors for the Chief of Police to consider.
- (d) In the event that the Chief of Police elects to cause further investigation to be conducted, the employee shall be provided with the results prior to the imposition of any discipline.
- (e) The employee may thereafter have the opportunity to further respond orally or in writing to the Chief of Police on the limited issues of information raised in any subsequent materials.

1011.6 RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS PRIOR TO DISCIPLINE

In the event that a member tenders a written resignation or notice of retirement prior to the imposition of discipline, it shall be noted in the file. The tender of a resignation or retirement by itself shall not serve as grounds for the termination of any pending investigation or discipline.

1011.7 POST-DISCIPLINE APPEAL RIGHTS

Non-probationary employees have the right to appeal a suspension without pay, punitive transfer, demotion, reduction in pay or step, or termination from employment. The employee has the right to appeal using the procedures established by any collective bargaining agreement and/or personnel rules (Minn. R. 6700.2200).

Employees covered by the Veterans Preference Act are entitled to written notice of the right to request a hearing within 30 days of receipt of the notice of intent to terminate, suspend or demote. Failure to request the hearing in the time specified waives the right to the hearing and all other legal remedies. Any hearing shall be held in compliance with law (Minn. Stat. § 197.46).

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1011.8 PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES AND OTHER MEMBERS

At-will and probationary employees and members other than non-probationary employees may be disciplined and/or released from employment without adherence to any of the procedures set out in this policy, and without notice or cause at any time. These individuals are not entitled to any rights under this policy except for employees covered by the Veterans Preference Act (Minn. Stat. § 197.46). However, any of these individuals released for misconduct should be afforded an opportunity solely to clear their names through a liberty interest hearing, which shall be limited to a single appearance before the Chief of Police or the authorized designee (Minn. R. 6700.2200).

Any probationary period may be extended at the discretion of the Chief of Police in cases where the individual has been absent for more than a week or when additional time to review the individual is considered to be appropriate.

1011.9 CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONNEL FILES

All active investigations of alleged misconduct and personnel complaints shall be considered confidential and maintained separately from peace officer personnel files. The contents of such files shall not be revealed to other than the involved member or authorized personnel, except pursuant to lawful process, such as MINN. R. 6700.2500. Data in closed files shall be treated as private or public data depending on whether discipline was imposed upon the member.

1011.10 LETTERS OF DISCIPLINE AND REPRIMANDS

Letters of discipline and reprimands may only be placed in a member's personnel file after they are received by the member (see generally Minn. Stat. 626.89, Subd. 13).

1011.11 REQUIRED REPORTING TO POST

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall notify POST of certain officer personnel events, including but not limited to:

- (a) A termination or resignation of an officer who is the subject of an internal or criminal investigation due to alleged misconduct regardless of whether the investigation has been initiated or completed, or whether the officer was criminally charged (Minn. Stat. § 626.8457, Subd. 4).
- (b) The violation of a required POST model policy identified in Minn. R. 6700.1615 (Minn. R. 6700.1615, Subd. 2).

Attachments

MN POST Allegations of Misconduct 2021 Model Policy.pdf

ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT MODEL POLICY
MN RULES 6700.2200 through 6700.2600

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform all employees and the public of procedures for reporting, receiving, investigating and disposition of complaints regarding the conduct of licensed peace officers of the Jordan Police Department. The provisions of this policy are applicable only to the investigation and the disposition of allegations of administrative misconduct. This policy does not apply to a criminal investigation.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Jordan Police Department to accept and to fairly and impartially investigate all complaints of misconduct to determine the validity of allegations; and to impose any corrective actions that may be justified in a timely and consistent manner.

III. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the terms set forth below are defined as follows:

- A. *Administrative Investigation:*** An internal investigation conducted in response to a complaint with the goal of determining whether an employee engaged in misconduct.
- B. *Chief Law Enforcement Officer*** means the chief of police, sheriff, state law enforcement director or designee. Within this model policy, the chief law enforcement officer will be referred to as CLEO.
- C. *Law Enforcement Officer*** means an individual who holds a peace officer license in the State of Minnesota. Within this model policy, a law enforcement officer will be referred to as LEO.
- D. *Complainant*** means a person who submits a complaint to the Agency or CLEO alleging misconduct by an agency member.
- E. *Complaint*** means a statement alleging behavior that constitutes misconduct.
- F. *Member*** means all voluntary and compensated personnel of the agency.
- G. *Discipline*** means any of the following or combination thereof:
 - Oral Reprimand
 - Written Reprimand
 - Suspension
 - Demotion
 - Discharge
- H. *Unfounded*** means there is no factual basis for the allegation. The act or acts alleged did not occur.

- I. **Exonerated** means a fair preponderance of the evidence established that either:
 - 1. the agency member named in the complaint was not involved in the alleged misconduct; or
 - 2. the act(s) that provided the basis for the complaint occurred; however, the investigation revealed that such act(s) were justified, lawful or proper.
- J. **Not Sustained** means the investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegations made in the complaint.
- K. **Sustained** means a fair preponderance of the evidence obtained in the investigation established that the LEO's actions constituted misconduct.
- L. **Policy Failure** means that the complaint revealed a policy failure. The allegation is factual and the LEO(s) followed proper agency procedure, however, that procedure has proven to be deficient.
- M. **Respondent** means an individual who is the subject of a complaint investigation.
- N. **Misconduct** means:
 - 1. a violation of an agency policy or procedure governing conduct of agency members;
 - 2. conduct by a peace officer that would be a violation of POST Standards of Conduct per Minn. Rules 6700.1600
- O. **Policies and Procedures** mean the administrative rules adopted by the agency regulating the conduct of agency members.
- P. **Receiving Authority** means the entity who receives and is required to investigate the complaint when the subject of the complaint is a CLEO.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. ACCEPTANCE AND FILING OF COMPLAINTS

- 1. Complaint forms must be made available through agency personnel, at designated public facilities, and online.
- 2. Complaints may be received either in person, over the telephone, in writing, or via the internet. A complainant may remain anonymous. The complainant should be advised that remaining anonymous may affect the investigation of the complaint.
- 3. A complainant may be accompanied by an attorney or other representative at the time a complaint is filed or at any other stage of the process.
- 4. Employees must provide assistance to individuals who express the desire to lodge complaints against any employee of this agency.
- 5. The complainant must be advised of the procedures for submitting the complaint and provided with a copy of their submitted complaint.

6. The complainant should be asked to verify by signature if the complaint is a complete and accurate account. If the complainant elects not to sign, this fact must be documented and the complaint processed according to procedure.
7. The CLEO will forward a copy of the written complaint to the respondent only after it is determined that the complaint does not allege a criminal violation and the notification will not impede a criminal investigation.
8. A CLEO or Receiving Authority may delegate the duties and responsibilities required of a CLEO by this policy to an appropriate designee(s).
9. Any complaint made against a chief of police must initially be made to the city administrator, manager or mayor. Any complaint made against a sheriff must initially be made to the county attorney, the county administrator or the board of county commissioners.
10. The city administrator, manager, mayor, county attorney, county administrator or board of county commissioners must refer investigations of alleged misconduct against a CLEO to an outside law enforcement agency or criminal justice agency that has no discernible conflict of interest.

B. INVESTIGATION OF A COMPLAINT

1. Upon receipt of the complaint, the CLEO must make an initial determination as to whether or not the facts alleged require an administrative investigation. If the CLEO decides that an investigation is not required, the disposition of the complaint must be cleared as “unfounded”, “not sustained”, or “exonerated.” The complainant and the respondent will be notified of this decision and the basis for determination. If the complainant supplies additional information within thirty (30) days of that initial determination, the CLEO may reverse this decision and order an administrative investigation.
2. If the CLEO determines an administrative investigation is required, an appropriate designee will be assigned to investigate the complaint. When the CLEO believes an external investigation is appropriate or when the CLEO is the subject of the complaint, the investigation will be assigned to an external agency that has no discernible conflict of interest.
3. The investigator must inform the complainant of his or her name, business phone number and the status of the complaint as soon as possible after being assigned the investigation.
4. The investigator must thoroughly investigate all allegations contained in the complaint and any other potential misconduct discovered in the course of the investigation. If the investigation reveals potential misconduct by another agency member, the investigator must report that fact to the CLEO or, in the case of a complaint against a CLEO, the appropriate city administrator, manager, mayor, county attorney, county administrator or board of county commissioners.
5. All agency members must cooperate with the investigation. When the respondent is

a licensed peace officer, the investigation must comply with the requirements of MN STAT 626.89 and acts amendatory thereto.

6. The investigator must prepare a report that contains all relevant information organized into the following three (3) sections:
 - *Allegations*: An itemized summary of the acts of misconduct alleged in the complaint. Reference must be made to those rules, procedures, orders, statutes, or constitutional provisions that would be violated if the allegations are taken as true.
 - *Investigation*: A chronological summary of the investigation including all pertinent facts obtained through interviews with the complainant, accused agency member(s), and all available witnesses. Written statements, descriptions and analysis of any physical evidence, and all other relevant information must be included.
 - *Conclusions*: The investigator's findings and conclusions as to whether any misconduct occurred and the underlying reasons for the findings and conclusions.
7. The investigation must be completed within thirty (30) days of the filing of the complaint unless the CLEO or Receiving Authority determines there is good cause to grant an extension. The complainant and respondent must be informed of any extension.

C. ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION, REVIEW AND DISPOSITION

1. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator must submit the report, case file and all investigative notes to the CLEO or Receiving Authority. The CLEO or Receiving Authority may require additional investigation or make one of the following decisions:
 - Unfounded
 - Exonerated
 - Not Sustained
 - Sustained
 - Policy Failure
2. The CLEO or Receiving Authority may postpone making a decision until any related criminal charges are resolved. The complainant and respondent must be informed of this decision.
3. If the decision is "unfounded," "exonerated," "not sustained" or "policy failure" the CLEO or Receiving Authority must immediately notify the complainant and the respondent of the decision.
4. If the complaint is "sustained" the CLEO or Receiving Authority will:
 - Issue findings of fact including a summary of the acts constituting misconduct and the specific statutes, policies, regulations and procedures violated; and
 - Take appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action.
 - Advise the complainant of any public information regarding the disposition
5. Prior to the implementation of remedial and/or disciplinary action the respondent will be provided with a copy of the findings of fact. The CLEO, Receiving Authority and/or designee must review the findings of fact with the respondent and explain the reasons

- for the remedial and/or disciplinary action.
6. The investigation may be re-opened by the CLEO or Receiving Authority at any time if substantial new evidence is discovered concerning the complaint.
 7. When a “sustained” disposition is final the respondent may appeal the disposition pursuant to the rules and law governing the accused member's employment.

D. MAINTENANCE AND DISCLOSURE OF DATA

1. Disclosure to the public, complainant and respondent of data collected, created or received by the agency in connection with this policy and procedure must be governed by the provisions of the MN Government Data Practices Act. Retention of data collected or maintained in connection with this policy must be retained in accordance with the agency’s “Record Retention Schedule.”
2. All data collected, created or received by the agency in connection with this policy and procedure must be maintained in accordance with the agency’s “Record Retention Schedule.”
3. The placement of the disposition report or other data in an employee’s personnel file must be governed by the agency’s personnel policy.
4. Access to data collected, created, or received in connection with this policy and procedure may only be authorized by the CLEO or the agency’s Data Practices “Responsible Authority,” and as provided by Chapter 13, the “Minnesota Government Data Practices Act,” or valid court order.

E. POST BOARD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Under Minn. Rule 6700.1610, a licensed peace officer must self-report to the POST Board any violations of the Standards of Conduct for peace officers listed in Minn. Rule 6700.1600.
2. Any person with knowledge of peace officer misconduct constituting grounds for action under Minn. Stat. chapter 214, or Minn. Rules 6700.1600, may report the violation to the Board.
3. Minnesota Stat. 626.8457 Subd. 3 requires CLEOs to submit individual peace officer public and private data related to allegations of misconduct to the POST Board in “real time” via the POST Board Misconduct Reporting System.
4. A chief law enforcement officer must update data within 30 days of final disposition of a complaint or investigation.
5. Law enforcement agencies and political subdivisions are prohibited from entering into a confidentiality agreement that would prevent disclosure of the data identified in Minn. Stat. 626.8457 Subd. 3 paragraph (b) to the Board. Any such confidentiality agreement is void as to the requirements of this section.