
Policy Manual

103.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The manual of the Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD) is hereby established and shall be referred to as the Policy Manual or the manual. The manual is a statement of the current policies, procedures, rules, and guidelines of this department. All members are to conform to the provisions of this manual.

All prior and existing manuals, orders, and regulations that conflict with this manual are rescinded, except to the extent that portions of existing manuals, orders, and other regulations that have not been included herein shall remain in effect where they do not conflict with the provisions of this manual.

103.2 POLICY

Except where otherwise expressly stated, the provisions of this manual shall be considered as guidelines. It is recognized that the work of law enforcement is not always predictable and that circumstances may arise that warrant departure from these guidelines. It is the intent of this manual to be viewed from an objective standard, taking into consideration the sound discretion entrusted to members of this department under the circumstances reasonably available at the time of any incident.

103.2.1 DISCLAIMER

The provisions contained in the Policy Manual are not intended to create an employment contract nor any employment rights or entitlements. The policies contained within this manual are for the internal use of the HCPD and shall not be construed to create a higher standard or duty of care for civil or criminal liability against the County, its officials, or department members. Violations of any provision of any policy contained within this manual shall only form the basis for administrative action, training, or discipline. The HCPD reserves the right to revise any policy content, in whole or in part.

103.3 AUTHORITY

The Chief Probation Officer shall be considered the ultimate authority for the content and adoption of the provisions of this manual and shall ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee is authorized to issue Provisional Orders, which shall modify those provisions of the manual to which they pertain. Provisional Orders shall remain in effect until such time as they may be permanently incorporated into the manual.

103.4 DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms shall have these assigned meanings throughout the Policy Manual, unless it is apparent from the content that they have a different meaning:

HCPD - The HCPD.

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Department - The HCPD.

Detainee - Any youth who is held in the Juvenile Hall or Regional Facility.

Detained - An assertion of authority of the probation officer that would cause a reasonable person to believe they are not free to leave. This belief may result from physical restraint, unequivocal commands, or other conduct by an officer.

Employee - Any person employed by the Department.

Manual - The HCPD Policy Manual.

May - Indicates a permissive, discretionary, or conditional action.

Member - Any person employed or appointed by the HCPD, including:

- Full- and part-time employees
- Volunteers

Officer - Those employees of the HCPD who are peace officers as defined in Section 830.5 of the California Penal Code.

On-duty - A member's status during the period when actually engaged in the performance of assigned duties.

Order - A written or verbal instruction issued by a superior.

POST - The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Probationer - any person subject to any form of supervision through the HCPD

Rank - The title of the classification held by an officer.

Shall or will - Indicates a mandatory action.

Should - Indicates a generally required or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.

STC - Standards and Training for Corrections.

Supervisor - A person in a position of authority that may include directing the work of other members, the authority to adjust grievances, and responsibility for hiring, transfer, suspension, promotion, discharge, assignment, reward, or discipline of other department members. The supervisory exercise of authority may not be merely routine or clerical in nature, but requires the use of independent judgment.

The term "supervisor" may also include any person (e.g., officer-in-charge, lead, or senior worker) given responsibility for the direction of the work of others without regard to a formal job title, rank, or compensation.

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103.5 ISSUING THE POLICY MANUAL

An electronic version of the Policy Manual will be made available to all members on the department network for viewing and printing. No changes shall be made to the manual without authorization from the Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee.

Each member shall acknowledge that the member has been provided access to and has had the opportunity to review the Policy Manual and Provisional Orders. Members shall seek clarification as needed from an appropriate supervisor for any provisions that they do not fully understand.

103.6 PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE POLICY MANUAL

The Chief Probation Officer, or authorized designee, will ensure that the Policy Manual is periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

103.7 REVISIONS TO POLICIES

All revisions to the Policy Manual will be provided to each member on or before the date the policy becomes effective. Each member will be required to acknowledge that the member has reviewed the revisions and shall seek clarification from an appropriate supervisor as needed.

Members are responsible for keeping abreast of all Policy Manual revisions.

Each Division Director will ensure that members under the Division Director's command are aware of any Policy Manual revision.

All department members suggesting revision of the contents of the Policy Manual shall forward their written suggestions to their Division Director, who will consider the recommendations and forward them to the command staff as appropriate.