
Protected Information

702.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the access, transmission, release, and security of protected information by members of the HCPD. This policy addresses the protected information used in the day-to-day operation of the Department and not the public records information covered in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

702.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Protected information - Any information or data collected, stored, or accessed by members of the HCPD and that is subject to any access or release restrictions imposed by law, regulation, order, or use agreement. This includes all information in federal, state, or local law enforcement databases that is not accessible to the public.

702.2 POLICY

Members of the HCPD will adhere to all applicable laws, orders, regulations, use agreements, and training related to the access, use, dissemination, and release of protected information.

702.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Probation Officer shall select a member of the Department to coordinate the use of protected information.

The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring member compliance with this policy and with requirements applicable to protected information, including requirements for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system, National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) records, and California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).
- (b) Developing, disseminating, and maintaining procedures that adopt or comply with the U.S. Department of Justice's current Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy.
- (c) Developing, disseminating, and maintaining any other procedures necessary to comply with any other requirements for the access, use, dissemination, release, and security of protected information.
- (d) Developing procedures to ensure training and certification requirements are met.
- (e) Resolving specific questions that arise regarding authorized recipients of protected information.
- (f) Ensuring security practices and procedures are in place to comply with requirements applicable to protected information.

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702.4 ACCESS TO PROTECTED INFORMATION

Protected information shall not be accessed in violation of any law, order, regulation, user agreement, HCPD policy, or training. Only those members who have completed applicable training and met any applicable requirements, such as a background check, may access protected information, and only when the member has a legitimate work-related reason for such access.

Unauthorized access, including access for other than a legitimate work-related purpose, is prohibited and may subject a member to administrative action pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy and/or criminal prosecution.

702.5 RELEASE OR DISSEMINATION OF PROTECTED INFORMATION

Protected information may be released only to authorized recipients who have both a right to know and a need to know.

A member who is asked to release protected information that should not be released should refer the requesting person to a supervisor or to the Legal Office Service Manager for information regarding a formal request.

Unless otherwise ordered or when an investigation would be jeopardized, protected information maintained by the Department may generally be shared with authorized persons from law enforcement agencies who are assisting in an investigation or conducting a related investigation. Any such information should be released through the Administrative Support to ensure proper documentation of the release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy).

Protected information, such as Criminal Justice Information, which includes Criminal History Record Information, should generally not be transmitted by radio, cellular telephone, or any other type of wireless transmission to members in the field or in vehicles through any computer or electronic device, except in cases where there is an immediate need for the information to further an investigation or where circumstances reasonably indicate that the immediate safety of department members or the public is at risk.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit broadcasting warrant information.

702.6 SECURITY OF PROTECTED INFORMATION

The Chief Probation Officer will select a member of the Department to oversee the security of protected information.

The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to:

- (a) Developing and maintaining security practices, procedures, and training.
- (b) Ensuring federal and state compliance with the CJIS Security Policy and the requirements of any state or local criminal history records systems.
- (c) Establishing procedures to provide for the preparation, prevention, detection, analysis, and containment of security incidents, including computer attacks.

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- (d) Tracking, documenting, and reporting all breach of security incidents to the Chief Probation Officer and appropriate authorities.

702.6.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members accessing or receiving protected information shall ensure the information is not accessed or received by persons not authorized to access or receive it. This includes leaving protected information, such as documents or computer databases, accessible to others when it is reasonably foreseeable that unauthorized access may occur (e.g., on an unattended table or desk, in or on an unattended vehicle, in an unlocked desk drawer or file cabinet, on an unattended computer terminal).

702.7 CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

No department member may create, submit, or obtain information from a criminal intelligence system unless the Chief Probation Officer has approved the system for department use.

Any criminal intelligence system approved for department use should meet or exceed the standards of 28 CFR 23.20.

A designated supervisor will be responsible for supervising the use of any criminal intelligence system by members. The supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure the following:

- (a) Members using any such system are appropriately selected and trained.
- (b) Use of every criminal intelligence system is appropriately reviewed and audited.
- (c) Any system security issues are reasonably addressed.

702.8 TRAINING

All members authorized to access or release protected information shall complete a training program that complies with any protected information system requirements and identifies authorized access and use of protected information, as well as its proper handling and dissemination.