
Conflict of Interest

823.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to assist members in recognizing and avoiding potential conflicts of interest, thereby ensuring effective and ethical operating practices on the part of the Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD).

823.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Conflict of interest - Any actual, perceived, or potential conflict in which it reasonably appears that a member's action, inaction, or decisions are or may be influenced by a personal or business relationship.

823.2 POLICY

Members of the HCPD are expected to conduct themselves with the utmost professional integrity and objectivity. Members will guard against actual or perceived conflicts of interest in order to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of department members and the public, and thereby maintain the trust of the public and other department members.

823.3 PROHIBITIONS

The Department prohibits the following types of personal or business relationships among members (Government Code § 12940):

- (a) Members are prohibited from directly supervising, occupying a position in the line of supervision, or being directly supervised by any other member who is a relative or with whom they are involved in a personal or business relationship.
 1. If circumstances require that such a supervisor/subordinate relationship exist temporarily, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to defer matters pertaining to the involved member to an uninvolved supervisor.
 2. When personnel and circumstances permit, the Department will attempt to make every reasonable effort to avoid placing members in such supervisor/subordinate situations. The Department, however, reserves the right to transfer or reassign any member to another position within the same classification to avoid conflicts with any provision of this policy.
- (b) Members are prohibited from participating in, contributing to, or recommending promotions, assignments, performance evaluations, transfers, or other personnel decisions affecting a member who is a relative or with whom they are involved in a personal or business relationship.
- (c) Whenever possible, field training officers (FTOs) and other trainers will not be assigned to train relatives. Department FTOs and other trainers are prohibited from entering into or maintaining personal or business relationships with any member they are assigned to train until such time as the training has been successfully completed and the person is off probation.

Humboldt County Probation Department

Probation Manual

Conflict of Interest

823.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members shall avoid situations that create a conflict of interest. Members should take reasonable steps to address a perception of a conflict of interest when such a perception is reasonably foreseeable and avoidable (e.g., deferring a decision to an uninvolved member).

Whenever any member is placed in circumstances that would require the member to take enforcement action or provide official information or services to any relative or individual with whom the member is involved in a personal or business relationship, that member shall promptly notify an uninvolved, immediate supervisor.

If no uninvolved supervisor is immediately available, the member shall promptly notify the Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee to have another uninvolved member either relieve the involved member or, minimally, remain present to witness the action.

823.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified of or otherwise becoming aware of any circumstance that could result in or constitute an actual or potential violation of this policy, a supervisor shall take all reasonable steps to promptly mitigate or avoid such violations whenever possible. Supervisors shall also promptly notify the Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee of such actual or potential violations through the chain of command.