

Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace

806.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and uniform guidelines regarding drugs and alcohol in the workplace.

806.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD) to provide a drug- and alcohol-free workplace for all members.

806.3 GENERAL GUIDELINES

Alcohol and drug use in the workplace or on department time can endanger the health and safety of department members and the public. Such use shall not be tolerated (41 USC § 8103).

Members who have consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any medication, or combination thereof, that would adversely affect their mental or physical abilities shall not report for duty. Affected members shall notify the appropriate supervisor as soon as the member is aware of an inability to report to work. If the member cannot to make the notification, every effort should be made to have a representative contact the supervisor in a timely manner. If the member is adversely affected while on-duty, the member shall be immediately removed and released from work (see the Work Restrictions section in this policy).

806.3.1 USE OF MEDICATIONS

Members should avoid taking any medications that will impair their ability to safely and completely perform their duties. Any member who is medically required or has a need to take any such medication shall report that need to an immediate supervisor prior to commencing any on-duty status.

806.3.2 USE OF MARIJUANA

Possession of marijuana, including medical marijuana, or being under the influence of marijuana on- or off-duty is prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action.

806.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members shall report for work in an appropriate mental and physical condition. Members are prohibited from purchasing, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using controlled substances or alcohol on department premises or on department time (41 USC § 8103). The lawful possession or use of prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies is excluded from this prohibition.

Members shall notify a supervisor immediately if they observe behavior or other evidence that they believe demonstrates that a fellow on-duty member is impaired due to drug or alcohol use.

Members are required to notify their immediate supervisors of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction (41 USC § 8103).

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806.5 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

There may be available a voluntary employee assistance program to assist those who wish to seek help for alcohol and drug problems (41 USC § 8103). Insurance coverage that provides treatment for drug and alcohol abuse also may be available. Employees should contact the Department of Human Resources, their insurance providers, or the employee assistance program for additional information. It is the responsibility of each employee to seek assistance before alcohol or drug problems lead to performance problems.

806.6 WORK RESTRICTIONS

If a member informs a supervisor that the member has consumed any alcohol, drug, or medication that could interfere with a safe and efficient job performance, the member may be required to obtain clearance from a physician before continuing to work.

If the supervisor reasonably believes, based on objective facts, that a member is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, the supervisor shall prevent the member from continuing work and shall ensure that the member is safely transported away from the Department.

806.7 COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ACT

No later than 30 days following notice of any drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace involving a member, the Department will take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and/or require the member to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program (41 USC § 8104).

806.8 CONFIDENTIALITY

The Department recognizes the confidentiality and privacy due to its members. Disclosure of any information relating to substance abuse treatment, except on a need-to-know basis, shall only be with the express written consent of the member involved or pursuant to lawful process.

The written results of any screening tests and all documents generated by the employee assistance program are considered confidential medical records and shall be maintained in the member's confidential medical file in accordance with the Personnel Records Policy.