

Investigative Records

803.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines for the operational functions of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department Investigative Section. The policy addresses department file access and internal requests for case reports.

803.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department to maintain department records securely, professionally and efficiently.

803.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

803.3.1 INVESTIGATIVE COMMANDER

The Chief of Police shall appoint and delegate certain responsibilities to a Investigative Commander.

The responsibilities of the Investigative Commander include but are not limited to:

- (a) Overseeing the efficient and effective operation of the Investigative Section.
- (b) Scheduling and maintaining Investigative Section time records.
- (c) Supervising, training, and evaluating Investigative Section staff.
- (d) Maintaining and updating a Investigative Section procedure manual.
- (e) Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures.
- (f) Supervising the access, use, and release of protected information (see the Protected Information Policy).
- (g) Establishing security and access protocols for case reports designated as sensitive, where additional restrictions to access have been implemented. Sensitive reports may include but are not limited to:
 1. Homicides
 2. Cases involving department members or public officials
 3. Any case where restricted access is prudent

803.3.2 INVESTIGATIVE SECTION

The responsibilities of the Investigative Section include but are not limited to:

- (a) Maintaining a records management system for case reports.
 - (a) The records management system should include a process for numbering, identifying, tracking, and retrieving case reports.
- (b) Entering case report information into the records management system.
 1. Modification of case reports shall only be made when authorized by a supervisor.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department

Policy Manual

Policy Manual

Investigative Records

- (c) Providing members of the Department with access to case reports when needed for investigation or court proceedings.
- (d) Maintaining compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding reporting requirements of crime statistics.
- (e) Maintaining compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding criminal history reports and auditing.
- (f) Identifying missing case reports and notifying the responsible member's supervisor.
- (g) Complying with the annual reporting requirements established by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) regarding (Md. Code PS § 3-518; Md. Code PS § 3-207):
 - 1. The number of serious officer-involved incidents.
 - 2. The number of officers disciplined.
 - 3. The type of discipline administered to each officer.
- (h) Complying with state requirements regarding the annual reporting of officer-involved deaths and deaths in the line-of-duty (Md. Code PS § 3-507).
- (i) Complying with reporting requirements related to sexual assault evidence collection kits in accordance with COMAR 02.08.04.01.
- (j) Complying with reporting requirements related to searches and seizures involving potential handgun violations under Md. Code CR § 4-203 (Md. Code CR § 4-206).
- (k) Complying with reporting requirements related to incidents apparently directed against an individual or group because of race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, homelessness, or any other class specified by state law as specified by Md. Code PS § 2-307.
- (l) Complying with the annual reporting requirements related to use of force incidents involving an officer that result in a monetary settlement or judgment against the department (Md. Code PS § 3-528).
- (m) Complying with the annual reporting requirements related to search warrants (Md. Code PS § 3-525).
- (n) Complying with the annual reporting requirements to the MPTSC related to the number of use of force complaints made against the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department's officers (Md. Code PS § 3-514).
- (o) Complying with reporting requirements related to CIT activation and deployment, if applicable (Md. Code PS § 3-508).
- (p) Complying with reporting requirements regarding firearms-related crimes (Md. Code PS § 5-703).

803.4 FILE ACCESS AND SECURITY

The security of files in the Investigative Section must be a high priority and shall be maintained as mandated by state or federal law. All case reports including, but not limited to, initial, supplemental, follow-up, evidence and any other reports related to a police department case, including field

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department

Policy Manual

Policy Manual

Investigative Records

interview (FI) cards, criminal history records and publicly accessible logs, shall be maintained in a secure area within the Investigative Section, and accessible only by authorized members of the Investigative Section. Access to case reports or files when Investigative Section staff is not available may be obtained through the Patrol Commander.

The Investigative Section will also maintain a secure file for case reports deemed by the Chief of Police as sensitive or otherwise requiring extraordinary access restrictions.

803.4.1 ORIGINAL CASE REPORTS

Generally, original case reports shall not be removed from the Investigative Section. Should an original case report be needed for any reason, the requesting department member shall first obtain authorization from the Investigative Commander. All original case reports removed from the Investigative Section shall be recorded on a designated report check-out log, which shall be the only authorized manner by which an original case report may be removed from the Investigative Section.

All original case reports to be removed from the Investigative Section shall be photocopied and the photocopy retained in the file location of the original case report until the original is returned to the Investigative Section. The photocopied report shall be shredded upon return of the original report to the file.

803.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

Investigative Section staff, Command Staff and Director of WSSC PHS have access to information that may be confidential or sensitive in nature. Staff shall not access, view or distribute, or allow anyone else to access, view or distribute any record, file or report, whether in hard copy or electronic file format, or any other confidential, protected or sensitive information except in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release and Protected Information policies and the Investigative Section procedure manual.