



Sheridan Police Department  
Policies and Procedures  
2.2 Replaces 103.1  
Chapter 2 – Law Enforcement Role  
Section 2 – Code of Ethics & Oath of Office

Date: January 1, 2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. K. M.", is written over a horizontal line.

The Sheridan Police Department and the citizens of Sheridan expect all personnel to maintain high standards of conduct. The Sheridan Police Department is firmly committed to serving the public efficiently, honestly, and professionally. The code of ethics and oath of office contained in this section represent enduring principles that are binding upon employees.

### 2.2.1 Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

A. All officers shall abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, +in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice, or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other law enforcement officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

- B. Officers shall affirm their willingness to abide by the Code of Ethics. The signed copy will be maintained in the personnel file of the employee.

### **2.2.2 Oath of Office**

#### **A. LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR**

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character or the public trust.

I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the constitution, my community, and the agency I serve.

- B. Prior to assuming sworn status, employees shall be required to affirm the oath of office expressing their commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights and maintain high professional standards in discharging the duties of a law enforcement officer.
- C. Upon completing the oath, all officers will abide by its contents.
- D. The signed copy of the oath of office will be maintained in the personnel file of the employee.

### **2.2.3 Civilian Code of Ethics**

#### **A. All civilian employees shall abide by the civilian code of ethics:**

As an employee of the Sheridan Police Department, I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession. At all times:

I will perform my duties with efficiency to the best of my ability.

I will be truthful. My conduct and performance of duties will be accomplished in an honest manner, and in compliance with all laws.

I will adhere to the confidentiality of the Law Enforcement profession.

I will not work for unethical advantage or personal profit in the performance of my duties.

I will recognize the public trust given to me as a public safety employee and I will serve to keep that trust in a manner that brings credit and respect to my profession.

I will give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable. I will be courteous in all my contacts.

I will regard my fellow employees with equality, dignity, and respect.

I will be loyal to my fellow employees, my superiors, and my agency.

I will accept responsibility for my actions.

I will strive to do only those things that will reflect honor on my fellow employees, my agency and me.

- B. Employees shall affirm their willingness to abide by the Code of Ethics. The signed copy will be maintained in the personnel file of the employee.