



Sheridan Police Department
Policies and Procedures
3.1 Replaces 101.1
Chapter 3 – Department Authority
Section 1 – Authority & Responsibility

Date: January 1, 2013
Updated: 08/27/2021

Signature:

The Sheridan Police Department expects members of the department to exercise the legally mandated authority given to them in a fair and impartial manner while being ever mindful of community needs.

3.1.1 Legal Authority Established

- A. The Wyoming State Constitution (97-13-001) provides for the incorporation of cities and towns.
- B. The Sheridan Police Department is established under authority of the Wyoming Revised Statutes (15-1-103) authorizing the governing bodies of cities and towns to establish and regulate a police department.
- C. The chief of police is appointed by the City Administrator, with Mayor and City Council approval, and has authority to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures, consistent with law, for the administration of the department. The chief of police is responsible to the City Administrator for the effective administration of the department. Sheridan Code: 22.1

3.1.2 General Responsibilities of Certified Police Officers

- A. Certified police officers are sworn to enforce city, state, and federal laws and to protect public peace and safety.
- B. Law-enforcement officers are given considerable power over citizens. That power is carefully circumscribed. Authority and limitations are found in the United States and Wyoming Constitutions, federal and state statutes, and city ordinances and resolutions. The police department's powers to arrest, seize property, and interfere, at times, with the lives of citizens, constitute a public trust.
- C. Wyoming State Statutes 7-2-102 through 7-2-105 authorize sworn officers to make arrests, issue citations, and seize certain property.

3.1.3 Authority to Carry and Use Weapons

- A. Sworn officers are authorized to carry weapons in accordance with state law under Wyoming Statute 6-8-104.
- B. Sworn officers are authorized to carry and use weapons authorized and issued by the department, in the performance of their duties, after receiving training and demonstrating knowledge and proficiency. See section 11.3 Use of Force – Weapons.

3.1.4 General Responsibilities of Special Municipal Officers

- A. Special municipal officers are authorized under Wyoming Statute 15-1-103.
- B. The following positions are appointed as special municipal officers:

1. Community service officers.
- C. Special municipal officers are authorized to issue citations to individuals for the limited purpose of enforcing ordinances, resolutions and regulations in the areas of animal control, parking and other municipal code violations.
 - D. Special municipal officers are not certified police officers and do not have the power of arrest.