

**Event 1 – Police Sciences**  
**Session 20 – Code of Ethics**  
**LD 1 Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics**

**Date Revised:** 12/21/2019

**Course Goal:** To teach recruit officers how to be effective, ethical, and professional leaders.

**Session Goal:** To teach recruit officers the Code of Ethics, public and agency expectations and the impact of their behavior on and off duty.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Discuss the relationship between public trust and a peace officer’s ability to perform their job. **[1.II.A]**
- Discuss the Community, agency and other peace officer’s expectations of a peace officer’s conduct **[1.II.B]**
- Explain the benefits of professional and ethical behavior to the community, agency and peace officer **[1.II.C]**
- Describe the consequences of unprofessional/unethical conduct to the community, agency and peace officer **[1.II.D]**
- Discuss the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics **[1.II.E]**
- Learning Activity (Code of Ethics)

**Session Time:** 1 hour

Resources:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom with tables</li> <li>• White board</li> <li>• Dry-erase markers</li> <li>• Flip charts</li> <li>• Code of Ethics</li> <li>• Training Triangle</li> <li>• Core Values</li> </ul>	
Session Summary: In this Session the class will discuss leadership and all of its components. They will be given a Code of Ethics learning activity. Upon completion of the activity, the instructor will debrief with the class.	
Outline	Instructor Notes
<b>I. Code of Ethics</b> <b>A. Professionalism and Ethics in Policing [1.II.A]</b> 1. Factors Impacting Public Trust a) Previous experiences with law enforcement b) Develop or enhance police/community partnerships c) General Public apathy and prevailing attitudes d) Impact of the family structure	(Continued from Event 1, Session 3)  Ask: Are there incidents covered in the news that make it seem difficult to trust the police? Why? (facilitate a short discussion)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e) Social and/or economic conditions</li> <li>f) Situations that promote high levels of fear or a sense of collective victimization</li> <li>g) Media treatment of law enforcement events</li> </ul> <p>2. Community/Agency/Officer’s expectations <b>[1.II.B]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Keep the community safe</li> <li>b) Respond promptly to calls for service</li> <li>c) Demonstrate professional &amp; ethical behavior</li> <li>d) Protect human rights</li> <li>e) Address crime and disorder</li> <li>f) Solve problems in fair and impartial manner</li> </ul> <p>3. Benefits of professional and ethical behavior for the peace officer are: <b>[1.II.C]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Self-esteem and personal worth</li> <li>b) Personal and professional satisfaction in doing the right thing</li> <li>c) Gaining respect and confidence of co-workers</li> <li>d) Establishing a higher personal and professional reputation in both the community and within the Agency</li> </ul> <p>4. Professional and ethical conduct helps the officer’s agency by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improving morale</li> <li>b) Improving agency respect within the profession</li> </ul>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Reinforcing and modeling the standard of performance</li> <li>d) Improving agency reputation</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Benefits of professional and ethical conduct help the community           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Receives equitable law enforcement</li> <li>b) A sense of security and trust</li> <li>c) Increases community partnerships</li> <li>d) Fosters community mobilization</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Unethical/unprofessional conduct directly affects the officer in addition to affecting the image and effectiveness of law enforcement in the community. Consequences to the officer range from mild to severe and may include: <b>[1.II.D]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Disciplinary action up to and including termination</li> <li>b) Civil and /or criminal liability (personal and agency)</li> <li>c) Embarrassment to stakeholders</li> <li>d) Eroding the image of the profession</li> <li>e) Reinforce negative stereotypes</li> <li>f) Reduction of effectiveness</li> <li>g) Diminishing public trust and cooperation</li> <li>h) Compromising officer safety</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, and explain the importance of</li> </ul>	
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<p>adhering to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics <b>[1.II.E]</b></p> <p>Officers give the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics life and meaning by following it in their everyday conduct. Along with the members of the law enforcement community at all levels, peace officers uphold the values, ethics, and principles of the profession. Officers are sworn to uphold the principles contained in the code. They also adhere to it as a matter of personal integrity. By adhering to the code, officer demonstrates to the community and their peers that they are honorable and trustworthy.</p>	<p>Facilitated discussion</p> <p>Explain that each recruit will make a pledge to uphold the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.</p> <p>Ask: Who read the Code of Ethics prior to this block. Ask them what they thought about when they read it.</p> <p>Explain there is also a Code of Conduct they should read in their materials.</p> <p>Run Learning Activity (Code of Ethics)</p>
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Learning Activity (Code of Ethics)

**Purpose:** To help the students understand the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and how it's meaning is applicable to the law enforcement profession.

**Description:** Divide the class into 4 groups. Have each group select a scribe and a presenter (two students may team present their findings). Assign each group a different paragraph of the Code of Ethics. Each group should decide the meaning of their assigned paragraph and link it to the Core Values, Mission Statement and CAPRA.

Bring the class together for a group discussion. Have each presenter stand up and read the assigned paragraph. The presenter should explain the meaning of their paragraph. The class should be able to answer the following questions:

1. Why must a peace officer maintain high ethical standards in his or her personal life?
2. Explain the conflict between the Code of Ethics and the “Code of Silence”
3. Why is it important to serve the needs of the community, and not just to enforce the law?

**Resources Needed:**

- Classroom
- White Board
- Dry Erase Markers

**Handouts:**

- Code of Ethics

**Time Required:** 20 mins