



G.O. Number: 1.1	Subject: Oath of Office / Code of Ethics	
Chapter: 1 Law Enforcement Role and Authority	Number of Pages: 04	
CFA Standard(s): 7.01M	Effective: 04/01/2014	
By Order of Chief of Police : Rene G. Landa Chief of Police		Revised: 10/01/2020 Status: Amended

SECTIONS:

- 1.1.1 Oath of Office**
- 1.1.2 Code of Ethics**

RESCINDS: Any other existing orders in conflict.

PURPOSE: To establish a procedure for taking and documenting an employee’s obligation at the time of beginning employment. To establish a code of ethics and conduct that will serve to promote efficiency, discipline and good public relations for all members of the South Miami Police Department.

SCOPE: All departmental personnel.

POLICY: It is the policy of the South Miami Police Department to ensure that all sworn and civilian personnel are to abide by the published Oath of Office, the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and/or the Civilian Code of Ethics.

1.1.1 OATH OF OFFICE

- A. The South Miami Police Department requires that each sworn department member take, and subsequently abide by, an oath of office to the Constitution of the United States, the State of Florida, and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of South Miami.

- B. The Chief of Police will administer the oath orally as the final step in the employment process. The original document will be signed, witnessed and retained in the employee's personnel file.

1.1.2 CODE OF ETHICS

- A. **Standard of Conduct:** The department will maintain the highest standard of integrity by never violating the trust the community has placed in our profession. Each member of the Department must recognize that he or she is held to a higher standard than a private citizen because, besides representing the department, he or she also represents the law enforcement profession and the City government. Therefore, his or her conduct on and off duty must be beyond reproach.
 - 1. The South Miami Police Department subscribes to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics as adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Civilian Code of Ethics.
 - 2. A copy of this document is provided to all personnel. All members are expected to abide by these standards. A second copy will be signed, witnessed and placed in the employee's personnel file. [CFA7.01M]
 - 3. Members of the department shall not use, or allow another member to use their official position, badge or credentials for personal gain; nor will any member of the department accept special treatment from others, when such benefit is being given either fully or partially as a result of the member's employment with the South Miami Police Department.

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 to 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 both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me 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 police 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.

CIVILIAN CODE OF ETHICS

*The South Miami Police Department expects civilian members to have unflinching honesty, respect of dignity and individuality of human beings, and a commitment to professional and compassionate service. As a **CIVILIAN MEMBER I SHALL:***

Act as an official representative of the Police Department who is required and trusted to work within the guidelines, policies, and procedures of the Agency. The fundamental duties of civilian employees include providing professional, prompt and courteous service to citizens.

Perform all duties impartially, without favor or ill will and without discrimination against any individual. All citizens will be treated equally.

Respect any information of a confidential nature which comes to my attention whether it is through personal observation, verbal or written communication. Citizens have a basic right of privacy and information obtained about them must not be improperly divulged.

In the performance of my duties, I will reflect honor upon myself, fellow employees, supervisors and the Agency. I will exhibit honesty and integrity through ethical behavior.

Cooperate with and assist other agencies fully and completely with respect and consideration at all times.

Acquire the high level of knowledge and competence which is essential for the efficient and effective performance of duty. The acquisition of knowledge is a never-ending process of personal and professional development which should be pursued constantly.

Conduct myself in a manner which does not bring discredit to myself or the Agency. Character and conduct while off-duty must always be exemplary, thus maintaining a position of respect in the community in which I live and serve. My personal behavior must be beyond reproach.