



THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DISCHARGE OF FIREARM POLICY

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to require immediate notification of a discharge, whether accidental or purposeful, of a firearm by a deputy of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department ("CCSD"). The authority to carry and use firearms in the course of public service carries with it the highest level of responsibility.¹ For this reason, every discharge must be reported, documented, and investigated.

POLICY

A deputy must immediately report any discharge of his/her firearm to an immediate supervisor once the perceived risk of the situation has subsided. Furthermore, any deputy having knowledge of a shot fired by another deputy will similarly report the incident to an immediate supervisor. This includes:

- shots fired at an individual;
- shots fired at an animal;
- accidental discharges ("ADs"); and
- shots fired from any firearm by off-duty personnel, except:
 - target or competition shooting;
 - hunting; or
 - military service

Personnel are not required to report shots fired while participating in department authorized firearms training.

The report will include witnesses, personnel, and all relevant parties to the incident. The report will describe circumstances surrounding shooting and events leading to the shot being fired.

¹ O.R.C. 2923.11 Weapons Control Definitions. "Firearm" means any deadly weapon capable of expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant. "Firearm" includes an unloaded firearm, and any firearm that is inoperable but that can readily be rendered operable.

Immediate supervisors will then notify necessary personnel in the chain of command of the report. In the event that the deputy is unable to finalize his report due to post-traumatic stress, his/her supervisor will complete a CS-35 Supplemental Form. Once the deputy has returned to work, he/she will immediately submit the report by the end of their shift.

DISCLAIMER

This policy is only for CCSD use and is not applicable in a civil or criminal proceeding. The standard of care and safety required of CCSD personnel and promulgated in this directive is not to replace the legal standard application to civil and criminal proceedings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Pinkney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clifford Pinkney
Sheriff