

ST. JAMES POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERACTIONS WITH OUTSIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENICIES

Section 1. POLICY STATEMENT. The City of St. James Police Department is committed to protecting the safety and security of all individuals while maintaining professional, cooperative working relationships with local, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Department personnel shall enforce applicable federal, state, and local laws within the scope of their legal authority and shall cooperate with outside governmental agencies as permitted or required by law. Department personnel shall not interfere with or obstruct the lawful duties of another governmental agency acting within its legal authority.

The Chief of Police shall establish operational procedures to implement this policy. Those procedures are intended to provide guidance to department personnel in carrying out their official duties and may be revised as operational needs, legal requirements, and best practices evolve.

Section 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish the guiding principles governing interactions with outside governmental law enforcement agencies.
- Ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Promote public safety through lawful and appropriate interagency cooperation.
- Clarify the Department's role and legal authority when interacting with outside governmental agencies.
- Promote professionalism, accountability, and public trust in the Department's interactions with other law enforcement agencies.

Section 3. SCOPE. This policy applies to all sworn officers, reserve officers, civilian employees, volunteers, and any individual acting under the authority of the St. James Police Department.

Operational procedures implementing this policy shall be established separately by the Chief of Police.

Section 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES. The department personnel shall adhere to the following principles:

1. The St. James Police Department is responsible for enforcing laws within its jurisdiction and legal authority.
2. Department personnel shall cooperate with local, county, state, tribal, and federal governmental agencies when such cooperation is authorized or required by law.
3. Nothing in this policy authorizes department personnel to exceed their legal authority or assume responsibilities assigned exclusively to another governmental agency.

4. Department personnel shall remain impartial and shall not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, disability, political affiliation, or any other protected characteristic when providing law enforcement services, except as authorized or required by law.
5. Department personnel shall exercise independent judgment consistent with applicable law, Department policy, and the facts and circumstances of each situation.
6. The Department recognizes that officers are often required to exercise lawful discretion in carrying out their duties. Such discretion shall be exercised in good faith, consistent with applicable law, Department policy, officer training, and the totality of the circumstances.