



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

Policy 1-01

Policy Title: Oath of Office and Code of Ethics

Date of Issue: December 1, 2022

Rescinds: None

By Authority of:

Chief of Police

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a Code of Ethics to be followed by all police department personnel, and to provide the sworn officers of the Springfield Township Police Department with a clear understanding of the law enforcement agency role and the significance and solemnity of the oath of office.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the Springfield Township Police Department that each police officer, prior to assuming sworn status, shall take and subscribe to an Oath of Office. All sworn employees shall also adhere to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and all non-sworn employees shall adhere to the Civilian Employee Code of Ethics.

III. Oath of Office

- A. Each sworn member of the Springfield Township Police Department, prior to assuming sworn status and performing sworn duties, shall take and swear or affirm to abide by an Oath of Office. The Oath of Office will require members to support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the ordinances of Springfield Township, and any municipality served by this police department, and that members will discharge the duties of their office with fidelity. It will also require that members uphold, obey, and enforce the law without consideration to a person's race, color, sex, religious creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, handicap, or disability.
- B. The Oath of Office will be administered orally by a Springfield Township employee, or any elected official authorized to administer oaths. Signed copies of the oath will be placed in the officer's personnel file.

IV. Code of Ethics

- A. All employees shall conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner at all times and not engage in any on or off-duty conduct that would tarnish or offend the ethical standards of the Springfield Township Police Department.
 - 1. A copy of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, as adopted by the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, will be provided to each sworn officer who will be required to abide by the ideals and ethics contained therein. Signed copies will be placed in the officer's personnel file.
 - 2. A copy of the Civilian Employee Code of Ethics will be provided to each civilian employee who will be required to abide by the ideals and ethics contained therein. Signed copies will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

V. Attachments

- A. Oath of Office
- B. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics
- C. Civilian Employee Code of Ethics

ATTACHMENT A

OATH OF OFFICE

I, _____ being duly appointed as a Police Officer in Springfield Township, Montgomery County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the ordinances of Springfield Township, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity. Furthermore, I affirm that I will uphold, obey and enforce the law without consideration to a person's race, color, sex, religious creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, handicap or disability.

ATTACHMENT B

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.

Now, repeat after me and respond with, "I do."

I, _____ do solemnly swear or affirm that I will adhere to the law enforcement code of ethics.

ATTACHMENT C

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE CODE OF ETHICS

As a civilian employee of the Springfield Township Police Department, I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.

I will be mentally and physically prepared to perform my duties.

I will perform my duties with efficiency to the best of my ability.

I will be truthful at all times. My conduct and my performance will be accomplished in an honest manner, and in compliance with the laws of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I will adhere to the confidentiality of the law enforcement profession.

I will not, in the performance of my duties, work for unethical advantage or personal profit.

I will recognize at all times that I am a public safety employee, and that I am ultimately responsible to the public.

I will give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times.

I will be courteous in all my contacts at all times.

I will regard my fellow employees with equality, dignity, and respect.

I will be loyal to my fellow employees, my superiors, and my agency.

I will accept responsibility for my actions.

I will strive to do only those things that will reflect honor on my fellow employees, my agency, and me.

