



AZ POST

INTEGRITY BULLETIN

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The Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZ POST) is mandated by the legislature to establish and enforce the physical, mental, and moral fitness standards, for all peace officers, in the state. The Board meets the charge to protect the public by overseeing the integrity of Arizona's law enforcement officers by reviewing cases and taking action against the certification of individuals who violate the AZ POST Rules. The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board at its January, February and March 2022 public meetings. Each action is considered on its own facts and circumstances.

The Board publishes this bulletin to provide insight into the Board's position on various types of officer misconduct. As always, the Compliance Specialist for your agency is available to discuss any matter and to assist you with any questions you might have.

REVOCATIONS:

Case 2019-066. An officer wrongfully donated, gave away, and/or kept an ex-roommate's property and made dishonest statements. The officer subsequently pled guilty to theft, a class 6 felony.

Case 2021-112. An officer sent threatening text messages and Instagram messages to a former spouse.

Case 2020-085. A sergeant was dishonest to professional standards during a Garrity interview.

Case 2020-155. An officer participated in a department program, which worked closely with senior-year high school students, who were interested in law enforcement. The officer engaged in sexual intercourse with a seventeen year old student.

SUSPENSIONS:

Case 2021-108. An officer failed to complete a police report and did not investigate the report of harassment between a boyfriend and an ex-girlfriend. Subsequently, the officer was admonished with Garrity, but then contacted a potential witness and discussed the internal investigation. The Board accepted a consent agreement for a three year suspension to lapse.

Case 2021-060. During a domestic argument, an officer, while off duty, caused injury to a family pot-bellied pig. Officers responded to the residence and issued respondent a criminal citation for disorderly conduct/domestic violence - a misdemeanor. The charges were later dismissed. The Board accepted a suspension to lapse.

Case 2019-190. The Board accepted a consent agreement that an officer's use of hard empty hand strikes, during a detention, was excessive force. The Board accepted a consent agreement for a 40-hour suspension.

Case 2020-086. An officer, while off duty, was arrested for disorderly conduct/domestic violence as well as preventing use of telephone - both misdemeanors. The Board accepted a consent agreement for a twelve month suspension.

DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION:

Case 2021-061. A recruit provided false or misleading statements to staff members, at the academy, about a combination lock that was on his locker.

Case 2021-132. A recruit was arrested for felony DUI when, while intoxicated, he drove his personal vehicle the wrong way onto a highway. His BAC was .194.

Case 2021-153. A recruit committed theft of a duty belt.

Case 2021-177. A recruit provided false or misleading statements during the hiring process about having sexual contact with an inebriated female.

VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENTS:

The Board accepted the following voluntary relinquishments/denials of peace officer certification. Respondents, without admitting any allegations made against them, permanently relinquished their Arizona peace officer certifications.

Case #2020-012	Case #2021-203	Case #2021-166	Case #2021-073
Case #2020-154	Case #2021-226	Case #2021-214	Case #2020-031
Case #2020-179	Case #2019-089	Case #2022-007	Case #2021-160
Case #2021-003	Case #2020-195	Case #2020-146	Case #2021-168
Case #2021-084	Case #2021-029	Case #2020-150	Case #2021-201
Case #2021-150	Case #2021-094	Case #2021-071	Case #2021-204
Case #2021-205			

NO ACTIONS:

At the January, February, and March meetings, the Board voted to close out the following cases without initiating a Complaint for disciplinary action. This is neither a finding that no misconduct occurred nor a comment that the Board condones the conduct. The Board may choose not to initiate a Complaint in a case even though there is misconduct if, considering all the circumstances, including agency discipline, the conduct does not rise to the level requiring a formal administrative proceeding. In many of these cases, the Board makes a statement that the conduct is an important consideration for a future hiring agency. By not taking disciplinary action, the Board leaves the matter to the discretion of an agency head who may choose to consider the officer for appointment. The Board relies on and enforces the statutory requirement of A.R.S. §41-1828.01 that agencies share information about misconduct with each other, even in cases where the Board has chosen not to take additional independent disciplinary action. Additionally, in some of these cases, further information is necessary before a charging decision can be properly made.

Case 2020-106. An officer shot a suspect in the hip during a physical struggle. The Board voted to take no action with agency discretion.

Case 2021-125. An officer shot an armed suspect in a doorway. The officer perceived a continued threat from inside the doorway, and did not immediately render first aid. The allegation was whether the officer's actions, in not rendering first aid, were in violation of POST rules. The Board voted to take no action.

Case 2020-174. An officer, while off duty, argued with his spouse. The argument then became physical and the spouse fell and broke her arm. The agency disciplinary review panel concluded that the officer acted in self-defense. The allegation of assault was dismissed by the county attorney and the spouse retracted her statement. The Board voted to take no action with agency discretion.

Case 2021-189. An officer provided inaccurate information, in a police report, that the Board concluded did not amount to dishonesty. The Board voted to take no action with agency discretion.

Case 2021-097. An officer exchanged mutual text messages with a civilian employee over a several month period of time. Certain of the text messages by the officer were unwanted. The Board voted to take no action.

Case 2021-191. An officer ran an ACJIS check on a vehicle identification number for a car his mother was purchasing to check if it was stolen or not. The Board noted that some police agencies provide a similar service to the public. The Board voted to take no action with agency discretion.

Case 2021-237. An officer was working off duty, in uniform, and exchanged racially insensitive words with a suspect. The officer and the suspect are African-American. The Board voted to take no action with agency discretion.

Case 2021-184. A police employee ran an ACJIS check on a license plate for an individual. The Board voted to take no action with agency discretion.