

Vehicle Use

703.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a system of accountability to ensure County and or Superior Court-owned vehicles are used appropriately. For the purposes of this policy, "County and or Superior Court-owned" includes any vehicle owned, leased or rented by the County and or Superior Court.

703.2 POLICY

The Shasta County Marshal's Office provides vehicles for department-related business and may assign patrol and unmarked vehicles based on a determination of operational efficiency, economic impact to the Department, requirements for tactical deployments and other considerations.

703.3 USE OF VEHICLES

703.3.1 SHIFT ASSIGNED VEHICLES

Members shall be responsible for inspecting the interior and exterior of any assigned vehicle before taking the vehicle into service and at the conclusion of the shift. Any previously unreported damage, mechanical problems, unauthorized contents or other problems with the vehicle shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented as appropriate.

703.3.2 UNSCHEDULED USE OF VEHICLES

Members utilizing a County and or Superior Court-owned vehicle for any purpose other than their regularly assigned duties shall first notify the Sergeant of the reason for use. This section does not apply to members permanently assigned an individual vehicle (e.g., command staff), who regularly use the vehicle on an unscheduled basis as part of their normal assignment.

703.3.3 INSPECTIONS

Members shall be responsible for inspecting the interior and exterior of any assigned vehicle before taking the vehicle into service and at the conclusion of their shifts. Any previously unreported damage, mechanical problems, unauthorized contents or other problems with the vehicle shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented as appropriate.

The interior of any vehicle that has been used to transport any person other than a member of this department should be inspected prior to placing another person in the vehicle and again after the person is removed. This is to ensure that unauthorized or personal items have not been left in the vehicle.

When transporting any suspect, prisoner or arrestee, the transporting member shall search all areas of the vehicle that are accessible by the person before and after that person is transported.

All department vehicles are subject to inspection and/or search at any time by a supervisor without notice and without cause. No member assigned to or operating such vehicle shall be entitled to any expectation of privacy with respect to the vehicle or its contents.

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703.3.4 AUTHORIZED PASSENGERS

Members operating County and or Superior Court-owned vehicles shall not permit persons other than County and or Superior Court members or persons required to be conveyed in the performance of duty, or as otherwise authorized, to ride as a passenger in their vehicle.

703.3.5 PARKING

Except when responding to an emergency or other urgent official business requires otherwise, members driving County and or Superior Court-owned vehicles should obey all parking regulations at all times.

County and or Superior Court-owned vehicles should be parked in their assigned stalls. Members shall not park privately owned vehicles in any stall assigned to a County and or Superior Court-owned vehicle or in any other areas of the parking lot that are not designated as a parking space unless authorized by a supervisor. Privately owned motorcycles shall be parked in designated areas.

703.3.6 KEYS

Members approved to operate marked patrol vehicles should be issued a copy of the key as part of their initial equipment distribution. Members who are assigned a specific vehicle should be issued keys for that vehicle.

Members shall not duplicate keys. The loss of a key shall be promptly reported in writing through the member's chain of command.

703.3.7 PRIVACY

All County and or Superior Court-owned vehicles are subject to inspection and/or search at any time by a supervisor without notice and without cause. No member assigned to or operating such vehicle shall be entitled to any expectation of privacy with respect to the vehicle or its contents.

703.3.8 ALCOHOL

Members who have consumed alcohol are prohibited from operating any department vehicle unless it is required by the duty assignment (e.g., task force, undercover work). Regardless of assignment, members may not violate state law regarding vehicle operation while intoxicated.

703.3.9 PARKING

Except when responding to an emergency or when urgent department-related business requires otherwise, members driving department vehicles should obey all parking regulations at all times.

Department vehicles should be parked in assigned stalls. Members shall not park privately owned vehicles in stalls assigned to department vehicles or in other areas of the parking lot that are not so designated unless authorized by a supervisor. Privately owned motorcycles shall be parked in designated areas.

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703.3.10 ACCESSORIES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

There shall be no modifications, additions or removal of any equipment or accessories without written permission from the assigned vehicle program manager.

703.3.11 NON-SWORN MEMBER USE

Non-sworn members using marked emergency vehicles shall ensure that all weapons have been removed before going into service. Non-sworn members shall prominently display the "out of service" placards or light bar covers at all times. Non-sworn members shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.

703.4 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ASSIGNMENT TO VEHICLES

Department vehicles may be assigned to individual members at the discretion of the Marshal. Vehicles may be assigned for on-duty and/or take-home use. Assigned vehicles may be changed at any time. Permission to take home a vehicle may be withdrawn at any time.

The assignment of vehicles may be suspended when the member is unable to perform his/her regular assignment.

703.4.1 ON-DUTY USE

Vehicle assignments shall be based on the nature of the member's duties, job description and essential functions, and employment or appointment status. Vehicles may be reassigned or utilized by other department members at the discretion of the Marshal or the authorized designee.

703.5 KEYS AND SECURITY

The loss of any key shall be promptly reported in writing through the member's chain of command.

703.6 DAMAGE, ABUSE AND MISUSE

When any department vehicle is involved in a traffic collision or otherwise incurs damage, the involved member shall promptly notify a supervisor. Any traffic collision report shall be filed with the agency having jurisdiction (see the Traffic Collision Reporting Policy).

Damage to any department vehicle that was not caused by a traffic collision shall be immediately reported during the shift in which the damage was discovered, documented in memorandum format and forwarded to the Sergeant. An administrative investigation should be initiated to determine if there has been any vehicle abuse or misuse.

703.7 MAINTENANCE

Members are responsible for the cleanliness (exterior and interior) and overall maintenance of their assigned vehicles.

Members shall make daily inspections of their assigned vehicles for service/maintenance requirements and damage. It is the assigned member's responsibility to ensure that his/her assigned vehicle is maintained according to the established service and maintenance schedule.

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Supervisors shall make, at a minimum, monthly inspections of vehicles assigned to members under their command to ensure the vehicles are being maintained in accordance with policy.

703.7.1 ACCESSORIES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

No modifications, additions or removal of any equipment or accessories shall be made to the vehicle without written permission from the Marshal.

703.8 TOLL ROAD USAGE

Law enforcement vehicles are not routinely exempted from incurring toll road charges.

To avoid unnecessary toll road charges, all members operating department vehicles on a toll road shall adhere to the following:

- (a) Members operating department vehicles for any reason other than in response to an emergency shall pay the appropriate toll charge or utilize the appropriate toll way transponder. Members may submit a request for reimbursement from the County and or Superior Court for any toll fees incurred in the course of official business.
- (b) Members passing through a toll plaza or booth during a response to an emergency shall notify, in writing, the appropriate Sergeant within five working days explaining the circumstances.

703.9 ATTIRE AND APPEARANCE

When operating any department vehicle while off-duty, members may dress in a manner appropriate for their intended activity. Whenever in view of or in contact with the public, attire and appearance, regardless of the activity, should be suitable to reflect positively upon the Department.