

Professional Standards Ethics Bulletin

Criminal Justice



2016 STATISTICS:

Currently Certified Law Enforcement in Oregon:

) Police	5336
) Corrections	4071
) Tele/EMD	894/855
) P & P	609
) OLCC	37

Professional Standards Cases Opened: 225

) Police	98
) Corrections	96
) Tele/EMD	19
) P & P	07
) OLCC	03

Professional Standards Cases Pending as of December 31: 148

Mandatory Disqualifiers

) Police	25
) Corrections	15
) Tele/EMD	00
) P & P	02
) OLCC	01

Discretionary Disqualifiers

) Police	53
) Corrections	41
) Tele/EMD	08
) P & P	01
) OLCC	02

Cases Closed in 2016: 181

) Revoked	59
) Deny	1
) No Revoke	5
) No Deny	6
) No Action	110

To increase the public's trust, the Oregon legislature has mandated the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training establish minimum standards that are required to be met and maintained by Oregon's providers of public safety, including police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, telecommunicators (9-1-1), emergency medical dispatchers, public safety instructors and OLCC regulatory specialists. The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training is responsible for certifying public safety professionals who meet all of the Board-established standards, and for denying or revoking the certification of those who do not meet or fall below the standards.

In addition to physical and intellectual standards, the Board has adopted minimum standards of moral fitness. Public safety professionals and applicants for public safety positions who have been convicted of a crime or have engaged in behavior that is deemed to fall below the minimum standards are subject to review as prescribed in Oregon Administrative Rule 259-008-0070. The sole purpose of this review is to determine if the Board's standards of moral fitness have been violated and if proceeding to deny or revoke public safety certification should be initiated. The review specifically looks for behavior that appears to involve dishonesty, disregard for the rights of others, misuse of authority, gross misconduct, misconduct, insubordination and incompetence.

The Professional Standards Ethics Bulletin has been developed as an educational tool aimed at providing insight and transparency into situations involving public safety professionals that may violate the Board's standard of moral fitness. The bulletin details the conduct and the resulting DPSST action. The names and agencies of the individuals in this report have been omitted to ensure focus remains on the behavior.

Questions about these incidents or about DPSST's processes and procedures can be directed to DPSST: (503) 378-2100 or oregon.dpsst@state.or.us.

The following cases have resulted in consideration of **revocation or denial** of certifications by DPSST in **December, 2016**.

Officer A was convicted of ORS 162.235, Hindering Prosecution, a felony crime. Officer A was served with a Notice of Intent to Revoke and failed to request a hearing. Officer A was revoked by default and the employer was notified. Officer A's misconduct ended a 3-year career.

Officer A's Basic Corrections certification was Revoked.

Officer B worked as a Police Officer from 2007 to 2013. DPSST received an F-4 stating that Officer B had been discharged for cause. Officer B was found to have been dishonest in statements made to supervisors during the course of an internal affairs investigation. Officer B requested to voluntarily relinquish their Police certifications.

Officer B's Basic and Intermediate Police certifications are Revoked.

Officer C resigned during an investigation into allegations of an inappropriate relationship with an inmate. Officer C chose to voluntarily relinquish their Corrections certification in lieu of having their conduct reviewed by the Corrections Policy Committee. Officer C's misconduct ended an 8-year career.

Officer C's Basic Corrections certification was Revoked.

Telecommunicator D resigned during an investigation after admitting to using a personal cell phone to contact a suspect regarding a criminal investigation that Telecommunicator D had received an emergency 9-1-1 call on. Telecommunicator D chose to voluntarily relinquish their certifications in lieu of having their conduct reviewed by the Telecommunicator Policy Committee. Telecommunicator D's conduct ended a 10-year career.

Telecommunicator's D's Basic Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher certifications are Revoked.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

In early 2016, a multi-disciplined workgroup was convened to review the standards that govern the denial and revocation of criminal justice certification in Oregon. On October 3, 2016 the Criminal Justice Denial/Revocation Workgroup concluded their work. Workgroup recommendations include multiple changes to the when DPSST professional standards cases are initiated and how they are handled.

These recommendations have been reviewed by the Telecommunications, Police and Corrections Policy Committees. Each unanimously recommended approving the proposed changes to the Board. The Board is scheduled to review the recommendations at their regularly scheduled meeting on January 26, 2017.

Given the sweeping changes these recommendations have on the certification of public safety professionals in Oregon, DPSST encourages all public safety officers to review the recommendations in their entirety. Recommendations including an explanation of the changes can be found on DPSST's webpage: Oregon.gov/DPSST.

Questions or concerns about any of these recommendations can be directed to DPSST Administrative Rules Coordinator Jennifer Howald ([503-378-2432](tel:503-378-2432)/Jennifer.Howald@state.or.us) or Professional Standards Division Director Linsay Hale ([503-378-2427](tel:503-378-2427)/Linsay.Hale@state.or.us).

PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

www.dpsst.state.or.us

503-378-2100