



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 October, November and December 2018, public meetings. These actions are not precedent setting, in the sense that similar cases will end with the same result, because each case is considered on its individual 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 #17-051. During a new hire audit it was discovered that an officer gave false and/or misleading statements to a detective conducting his background investigation; as well as to the polygrapher conducting his pre-hire polygraph examination.

Case #18-068. A commander had sex with a female in his office and recorded the encounter on his body camera. Investigators also discovered pornographic material on his office computer.

SUSPENSIONS:

Case #17-089. A detective, on four occasions had sexual relations with a female employee of the court while he was on duty. (18-month suspension)

Case #18-044. An officer converted an on duty contact into a personal and sexual relationship. He also released criminal history information to this individual. He also accessed criminal history information without a valid law enforcement purpose. He resigned from his agency. (3-years till lapse suspension)

Case #18-107. An officer had sexual contact with his girlfriend in his patrol vehicle while off duty. He also had sexual intercourse with another woman months later, in her vehicle, while he was on duty. (6-month suspension)

DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION:

Case #18-075. An applicant was less than untruthful when completing his AZ POST Statement of Personal History and Application for Certification Form when applying for various agencies. He also failed to disclose a previous internal investigation with his previous agency.

Case #18-054. A recruit, out of anger, physically pushed another recruit during defensive tactics training.

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 #17-066	Case #18-124	Case #17-133
Case #18-115	Case #18-101	Case #17-121
Case #18-141	Case #18-128	Case #18-143
Case #17-061	Case #18-110	

NO ACTIONS:

On October 17, November 14 and December 19, 2018, 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. In fact, the Board's rules are very broad and all misconduct violates one or more of the disciplinary rules. 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 #18-097. A law enforcement agency reported that an officer was possibly being abusive towards his live-in girlfriend. Professional Standards Unit investigators were unable to corroborate the accusations and the alleged victim declined to participate in the investigation in any meaningful way.

Case #18-127. An officer, while on-duty, engaged in consensual sexual contact with a fellow city employee approximately four to six times.