

DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

**86 Dover Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824
(603)868-2324**

POLICY #: 1.1.1

SUBJECT: Oath of Office

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Durham Police Department, and as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

PURPOSE

Durham Police Officers are required to execute an Oath of Office before assuming any law enforcement duties. This oath specifies certain duties and responsibilities that are incumbent on the officer. Also, officers are expected to perform their duties while applying the highest ethical standards. This general order establishes the Oath of Office for the Durham Police Department.

POLICY

In order to protect the public interest of the citizens of the Town of Durham, the Police Department has been given broad police powers. Sworn members of the Durham Police Department have the authority to enforce the laws of this State and the Ordinances of the Town. This authority is exercised within the limits established by the United States Constitution, the State of New Hampshire Constitution, federal and state statutes, and judicial interpretations.

Employees have full discretion, within the scope of their job function, to accomplish the mission of the Durham Police Department except where limited by law, the judicial interpretation of laws, and the policies and procedures of the Department.

OATH OF OFFICE

All sworn police officers will execute the prescribed Oath of Office before performing any law enforcement duties. All officers, regardless of whether they are certified by NHPSTC, shall execute the Oath of Office at the time of hiring. No employee shall exercise any powers of a police officer until the Oath of Office has been executed. An employee who is not certified *and* sworn may not carry a weapon and may not be assigned to any duty that may require the use of law enforcement authority or arrest powers. This includes any officer assigned to the Field Training Program.

- The following Oath of Office will be executed by all Durham Police Officers:

1.1.1, Oath of Office

Effective 4-11-1997
Revised 5-12-06, 8-4-06

“I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as a Police Officer for the Town of Durham, New Hampshire, according to the best of my abilities, agreeable to the rules and regulations of the United States and New Hampshire Constitutions and laws of the State and the ordinances of the Town of Durham. SO HELP ME GOD.”

The execution of this oath will be witnessed by the Chief of Police or designee and the Durham Town Clerk who will countersign and validate the Oath. The Oath will be properly noted with the date and time in the place provided.