

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 6-8

Effective: 01-30-22

DUTY TO DISCLOSE EXCULPATORY MATERIAL

PURPOSE: A department and its personnel could be subject to liability in federal court for failing to disclose to a prosecutor any evidence that may be favorable to a defendant. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that department personnel comply with the landmark United States Supreme Court decisions of Brady v Maryland (1963) and Giglio v. United States (1972) and their progeny.

POLICY: It is the policy of this department to require that law enforcement personnel provide all potentially exculpatory evidence to prosecutors. It is the responsibility of the Chief of Police, or his or her designee, to review all officers' disciplinary history to determine if anything on file could affect the officer's credibility as a witness. This information should be made available to the prosecutor for a determination of whether said information is "Brady" material prior to the officer's appearance.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. **DUTY TO DISCLOSE:** The landmark decision of Brady v Maryland (1963) places an affirmative constitutional duty on a prosecutor to disclose exculpatory evidence to a defendant. This duty has been extended to police agencies through case law, requiring law enforcement agencies to notify the prosecutor of any potential exculpatory information.
- II. **EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE/BRADY MATERIAL:** Evidence in the government's possession that is favorable to the accused and that is material to either guilt or punishment, including evidence that may impact the credibility of a witness.

PROCEDURES:

- I. Officers are required to document all investigative activity involved in an investigation, including exculpatory information.
- II. All official reports involving an investigation will be submitted to the prosecuting authority prior to actual prosecution of the case. The prosecutor will determine what information contained in the case file will be provided to defense counsel.
- III. The department will meet with the prosecutor's office to establish a procedure whereby the intent of this policy is carried out.
- IV. To the extent the department is aware of exculpatory information, to include sustained disciplinary history, which may be "Brady" material, the Chief of Police, or their designee shall ensure that such information is brought to the attention of the prosecutor before the officer provides testimony in any criminal case.
- V. Each employee who is notified to appear as a witness in a criminal case has an individual obligation under this policy to notify the prosecutor on the specific case of any sustained disciplinary history that may impact credibility and qualify as "Brady" material.
- VI. The Chief of Police or their designee will ensure that all sworn personnel are familiar with the requirements of this policy and will stress the importance of credibility as an essential requirement of being able to function as a police officer.

Brett Hibbs

Brett C. Hibbs
Chief of Police