

# JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 5-21  
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## DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT

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**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines to utilize the training and expertise of the Department's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

**POLICY:** The Jacksonville Police Department, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) has established a Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. DRE trained officers possess exclusive training, knowledge, and expertise that are an asset to a DWI investigation that will promote traffic safety within the City through the successful arrest and prosecution of subjects found to be driving while intoxicated (DWI) by drug(s) other than alcohol or a combination of both. As such, a DRE officer should be requested to assist the arresting officer with processing the suspect whenever drugs, toxic vapors, or any combination is suspected and/or the level of impairment observed is not consistent with the breath test reading.

The program's objective is to provide officers with certified experts capable of gathering evidence necessary to substantiate charges of being under the influence of drugs in DWI cases. Only officers who have received approved NHTSA DRE training and IACP certification/recertification may be considered a Department Drug Recognition Expert.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- I. DRUG EVALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION (DEC) PROGRAM: The nationally recognized and regulated drug influence training program established by the IACP and the NHTSA.
- II. DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT: An officer who has successfully completed a CJI approved course for certification as established by the IACP and the NHTSA.
- III. STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TEST (SFST): The standardized field sobriety tests include three tests that were developed and validated through a series of controlled experiments supported by research grants from NHTSA. The three (3) tests include the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Test (HGN), The Walk and Turn (WAT), and the One (1) Leg Stand (OLS).
- IV. BLOOD/BREATH ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC): The concentration of alcohol in a person as measured by blood or breath.
- V. DRUG: NHTSA defines a drug as: Any substance that, when taken into the human body, can impair the ability of the person to operate a vehicle safely.
- VI. RULE OUT: A determination made by a DRE that an individual's impairment is other than drug related (i.e. medical).
- VII. DARK ROOM: A room that has very low light or no light that is used by the DRE to perform an eye examination on the arrested person that is part of the DRE's standardized and systematic evaluation.