

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 4-10
Effective: 01-01-09
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OFF-DUTY POLICE ACTIVITY & PERSONAL DISPUTES

PURPOSE: To give guidance to the actions allowed by an officer while in an off-duty capacity and/or during neighborhood or personal disputes.

POLICY: Off-duty officers are often faced with situations involving criminal conduct that they are neither equipped nor prepared to handle in the same manner as if they were on duty. This may lead to unnecessary injuries to off-duty officers and confusion for those on-duty officers arriving on the scene trying to correctly assess the facts. To promote safety and efficiency, it is the policy of Jacksonville Police Department to determine and regulate those situations and locations within which a sworn officer is permitted to make an arrest while off-duty.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. **OFF-DUTY:** Employees of this Department shall have regular hours assigned to them for active duty and when not so employed shall be considered "off-duty". During "off-duty" time, employees of the Department shall be subject to call-out duty as assigned. Employees shall also be subject to emergency stand-by as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.
- II. **PERSONALLY INVOLVED:** An officer is deemed personally involved where the off-duty officer, a family member, or a friend becomes engaged in a dispute or incident involving a personal matter with the alleged perpetrator or any other person connected with the incident. This does not apply to situations where the police officer is a witness to a criminal act or the criminal act is deemed to be of a serious/life threatening nature and the arrest of the alleged perpetrator is necessary for the safety of the public.
- III. **LIABILITY PROTECTION:** Officers of this Department have liability protection for the on- and off-duty performance of official duties. This protection does not extend to acts intended to cause injury or damage, or to those actions that the police officer knew, or reasonably should have known, were in conflict with the law or the established policies of this Department.

PROCEDURES:

- I. **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION WHILE OFF-DUTY**
 - A. While off-duty, the police officer is responsible for immediately reporting any suspected or observed criminal activities to on-duty authorities.
 - B. When applicable, the police officer should make every effort to allow on-duty personnel to take the appropriate action necessary.
 - C. Except as allowed by this policy, off-duty officers will not enforce minor violations or nuisance offenses. On-duty personnel will be contacted to respond to the situation when an off-duty officer becomes aware of such violations.
 - D. Officers driving a marked police vehicle while off-duty shall carry with them the necessary equipment to take whatever action is needed if a collision or any other incident occurs and law enforcement action is required and stay on scene until they are relieved by an on-duty officer.