



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
P O L I C E

CODE OF POLICE ETHICS



LJUBLJANA 2008

CODE OF POLICE ETHICS

The Code of Police Ethics, which consists of general provisions and basic principles, determines the relations between police officers and the relations between police officers and citizens, state authorities, non-governmental organisations and other institutions. The Code of Police Ethics constitutes moral and ethical standards of the Police and an upgrading of the Code of Conduct for Civil Servants.

The Code aims to raise police officers' awareness of the importance of respecting ethical principles and to strengthen ethical and moral conduct in practice.

The appendix to the Code contains a list of values and virtues expressing the mission of the Police.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The Code of Police Ethics conveys the will and desire of all Slovenian police officers to perform our work in a lawful, professional, fair, polite and respectful manner characterised by humane treatment.

Article 2

We, police officers, ensure the protection and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In lawful interference with human rights and fundamental freedoms, we respect a person's personality and dignity.

We are also obliged to protect human personality and dignity by preventing any violence and inhuman and other degrading treatment.

We perform our mission with the force of argument rather than the argument of force.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Respect for Equality Before the Law

Article 3

In our procedures we ensure that everyone is guaranteed equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, irrespective of ethnicity, race, gender, language, religion, political or other conviction, material standing, education, social status or any other personal circumstance.

Protection of Reputation

Article 4

In performing our work and in our private life, we ensure the protection and promotion of our own reputation and the reputation of the police organisation. We take special care to strengthen the integrity of the police organisation. In our work, we adhere to principles, we are consistent, determined, persistent, fair, professional, and act politely and with respect towards people, state authorities, non-governmental organisations and other institutions.

Incorruptibility

Article 5

We do not require for ourselves or for any other person any special privileges, and are immune to all forms of bribery.

Public Nature of Work

Article 6

We earn the sympathy and respect of the general public and gain reputation by performing our work in a public, lawful, professional, fair, polite and respectful manner, and accept the public as a form of control over our work.

Professionalism and Independence

Article 7

To achieve professionalism in our work, we receive adequate training followed by special and advanced training as well as broaden our general knowledge and develop skills necessary to perform official duties.

We have the right to associate in trade unions and in professional and other similar associations in the country and abroad. Our professional conduct must not be based on political convictions and world views.

Protection of Professional Secrecy

Article 8

We protect professional secrecy and do not use in an unauthorised manner or disclose data and information acquired in the performance of official duties. We perform our work and inform the public without disclosing confidential information.

Mutual Relations

Article 9

Our relations are based on mutual respect, mutual assistance and the principles of solidarity, comradeship, tolerance and honesty, mutual trust and dignity, constructive criticism and good communication.

These relations are not characterised by the phenomena of false solidarity, humiliation, under-estimation and disregard.

Compliance with the Code

Article 10

We are obliged to comply with this code and are therefore well acquainted with it. We are aware of the moral responsibility and moral consequences of any breach of the Code.

Adopting and Amending the Code

Article 11

The Code of Police Ethics shall be adopted and amended by the representative trade union of the Police subject to the approval of Director General of the Police.

Amendments may be proposed by the representative trade union and by the Director General of the Police.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 12

The principles of the Code shall be applied in all security situations.

Article 13

The provisions of the Code shall be included in police training programmes as well as in special and advanced training.

Article 14

The Code of Police Ethics shall enter into force on the day of its adoption on 9 October 2008.

VALUES AND VIRTUES EXPRESSING THE MISSION OF THE POLICE

WE, POLICE OFFICERS:

- ◆ SERVE THE PEOPLE,
- ◆ PROTECT HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY,
- ◆ PROTECT THE WEAK FROM THE STRONG,
- ◆ ENSURE THAT ALL THE PEOPLE ENJOY CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS,
- ◆ HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEGRITY,
- ◆ SEPARATE PERSONAL ISSUES FROM PROFESSIONAL ONES,
- ◆ ARE BRAVE AND DETERMINED EVEN IN LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS,
- ◆ ARE AWARE THAT THE POLICE IDENTITY CARD SIGNIFIES ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE,
- ◆ MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY AND DO NOT ABUSE DATA AND INFORMATION,
- ◆ ALWAYS ACT IN AN ETHICAL, LAWFUL AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER.