



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

CODE OF POLICE ETHICS



LJUBLJANA 2008

CODE OF POLICE ETHICS

The Code of Police Ethics consists of two general provisions and basic principles; it determines both the relations between police officers¹ 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 upgrades the Code of Conduct for Civil Servants.

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

The Code's Annex contains a list of values and virtues expressing the mission of the Police.

¹ *The term police officer(s) applies to both female and male persons.*

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The Code of Police Ethics expresses the will and desire of all Slovenian police officers for lawful, professional, fair, polite and correct work as well as humane conduct.

Article 2

Police officers shall be committed to ensure the protection of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In a lawful interference with an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms, they shall respect the person's personality and dignity.

Police officers shall be obliged to protect a person's personality and dignity also by preventing any violence, inhumane treatment or other actions which are humiliating to people.

Police officers shall perform their mission with the force of argument rather than the argument of force.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Respect for equality before the law

Article 3

Police officers, in their procedures, shall 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

Police officers, in performing their work and in their private life, shall ensure the protection and promotion of their own reputation and the reputation of the police organisation. Police officers shall focus especially on strengthening the integrity of the police organisation. In their work, police officers shall adhere to principles; they shall be consistent, resolute, persistent, fair, professional, and in contacting people, state authorities, non-governmental organisations and other institutions, they shall be polite and correct.

Incorruptibility

Article 5

Police officers shall not require, for themselves or for any other person, any special privileges, and shall be insusceptible to all forms of corruption.

Public nature of work

Article 6

Police officers shall earn sympathy, reputation and respect of the general public by performing their duties in a public, legal, professional, fair, polite and correct manner, and shall accept the public as a form of control over their work.

Professionalism and independence

Article 7

To achieve professionalism in their work, police officers shall be adequately trained and shall receive professional and advanced training, as well as broaden their general knowledge and develop specific knowledge and skills necessary to perform official duties.

Police officers may associate in trade unions or professional and other similar associations in the country and abroad. Their professional conduct should not be based on political convictions and world-views.

Protection of professional secrecy

Article 8

Police officers shall protect professional secrecy and shall not use in an unauthorised manner or disclose data and information acquired in the performance of official duties. In the course of their work and in informing the public, they shall be appropriately discreet.

Mutual relations

Article 9

The relations between police officers shall be based on mutual respect, mutual assistance and the principles of solidarity, collegiality, tolerance and honesty, mutual trust and dignity, constructive criticism and good communication.

Their relations shall not be characterised by the phenomena of false solidarity, humiliation, underestimation and discrimination.

Code compliance

Article 10

Police officers shall be obliged to comply with this code, and shall therefore be well acquainted with it. They shall be 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 and shall be subject to the approval of Director General of the Police.

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

Final provisions

Article 12

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

Article 13

The provisions of the Code shall be included in police training programmes, as well as in professional 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, THE POLICE OFFICERS:

- ◆ SERVE THE PEOPLE
- ◆ PROTECT HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY
- ◆ PROTECT THE WEAK FROM THE STRONG
- ◆ ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS
UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS
- ◆ HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEGRITY
- ◆ SEPARATE PERSONAL MATTERS FROM
OFFICIAL ONES
- ◆ ARE BRAVE AND RESOLUTE EVEN WHEN LIFE
IS IN DANGER
- ◆ ARE AWARE THAT THE POLICE IDENTITY
CARD REPRESENTS RESPONSIBILITY AND
PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE
- ◆ PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY AND DO NOT
ABUSE DATA AND INFORMATION
- ◆ ALWAYS ACT IN AN ETHICAL, LAWFUL AND
PROFESSIONAL MANNER