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## Records Maintenance and Release

### 805.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance on the maintenance and release of department records. Protected information is separately covered in the Protected Information Policy.

### 805.2 POLICY

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing public access to records in a manner that is consistent with the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250 et seq.).

#### 805.2.1 PROCESSING OF REQUESTS

Any member of the public, including the media and elected officials, may access unrestricted records of this department by submitting a written and signed request for each record sought and paying any associated fees (Government Code § 6253).

The processing of requests is subject to the following limitations:

- (a) The employee processing the request shall determine if the requested record is available and, if so, whether the record is exempt from disclosure. Either the requested record or the reason for non-disclosure will be provided promptly, but no later than 10 days from the date of request, unless unusual circumstances preclude doing so. If more time is needed, an extension of up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Sheriff or the authorized designee. If an extension is authorized, the Department shall provide written notice of the extension to the requesting party (Government Code § 6253(c)).
- (b) In accordance with the Public Records Act, the Department is not required to create records that do not otherwise exist in order to accommodate a request under the Act.

Requests by elected officials for records that are not open to public inspection should be referred to the Administration Division Commander for a determination as to whether the records will be released.

### 805.3 CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sheriff shall designate a Custodian of Records. The responsibilities of the Custodian of Records include but are not limited to:

- (a) Managing the records management system for the Department, including the retention, archiving, release, and destruction of department public records.
- (b) Maintaining and updating the department records retention schedule including:
  - 1. Identifying the minimum length of time the Department must keep records.
  - 2. Identifying the department division responsible for the original record.

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- (c) Establishing rules regarding the inspection and copying of department public records as reasonably necessary for the protection of such records (Government Code § 6253).
- (d) Identifying records or portions of records that are confidential under state or federal law and not open for inspection or copying.
- (e) Establishing rules regarding the processing of subpoenas for the production of records.
- (f) Ensuring a current schedule of fees for public records as allowed by law is available (Government Code § 6253).
- (g) Determining how the department's website may be used to post public records in accordance with Government Code § 6253.
- (h) Ensuring that all department current standards, policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials are posted on the department website in accordance with Penal Code § 13650.
- (i) Ensuring that public records posted on the Department website meet the requirements of Government Code § 6253.10 including but not limited to posting in an open format where a record may be retrieved, downloaded, indexed, and searched by a commonly used internet search application.
- (j) Ensuring that a list and description, when applicable, of enterprise systems (as defined by Government Code § 6270.5) is publicly available upon request and posted in a prominent location on the Department's website.

### 805.3.1 GENERAL CASE AND CRIME REPORTS

Reports containing any of the items listed below will not be released:

- (a) **Victim information** - Victims of crimes who have requested that their identifying information be kept confidential, victims who are minors and victims of certain offenses (e.g., sex crimes, Penal Code § 293) shall not be made public. No employee shall disclose to any arrested person or to any person who may be a defendant in a criminal action the address or telephone number of any person who is a victim or witness in the alleged offense, unless it is required by law (Penal Code § 841.5).
- (b) **Confidential information** - Information involving confidential informants, intelligence information, information that would endanger the safety of any person involved or information that would endanger the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation shall not be made public.
  - 1. Analysis and conclusions of investigating deputies may also be exempt from disclosure.
  - 2. If it has been noted in any report that any individual wishes to protect his/her right to privacy under the California Constitution, such information may not be subject to public disclosure.

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- (c) **Specific crimes** - Certain types of reports involving, but not limited to, **child abuse/molestation** (Penal Code § 11167.5), **elder abuse** (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15633) and **juveniles** (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827) shall not be made public.
- (d) **General information** - Absent statutory exemption to the contrary or other lawful reason to deem information from reports confidential, information from unrestricted agency reports shall be made public as outlined in Government Code § 6254(f).
- (e) **Deceased juvenile crime victims** - The Code of Civil Procedure § 130 limits the dissemination of autopsy and private medical information concerning a murdered child by allowing families to request that the autopsy report of the victim be sealed from public inspection. Such requests shall be honored, with the exceptions that allow dissemination of those reports to law enforcement agents, prosecutors, defendants or civil litigants under state and federal discovery laws (Code of Civil Procedure §130).

#### 805.3.2 ARREST REPORTS

Arrestee information shall be subject to release in the same manner as information contained in other reports as set forth above.

In addition to the restrictions stated above, all requests from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) shall be referred to the District Attorney, County Counsel or the courts pursuant to Penal Code § 1054.5.

Local criminal history information including, but not limited to, arrest history and disposition, and fingerprints shall only be subject to release to those agencies and individuals set forth in Penal Code § 13300.

#### 805.3.3 TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORTS

Traffic collision reports (and related supplemental reports) shall be considered confidential and subject to release only to the California Highway Patrol, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), other law enforcement agencies and those individuals and their authorized representatives set forth in Vehicle Code § 20012.

#### 805.3.4 PERSONNEL RECORDS

Personnel records, medical records and similar records which would involve personal privacy shall not be made public (Government Code § 6254((c)); Penal Code § 832.7; Penal Code § 832.8).

Peace officer personnel records are deemed confidential (Penal Code § 832.7, et seq.) and shall not be made public or otherwise released to unauthorized individuals or entities absent a valid court order (Evidence Code § 1043, et seq.).

The identity of any deputy subject to any criminal or administrative investigation shall not be released without the consent of the involved deputy, prior approval of the Sheriff or as required by law.

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### 805.3.5 CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS

Information contained in CCW permit applications or other files which would tend to reveal where the applicant is vulnerable or which contains medical or psychological information shall not be made public (Government Code § 6254(u)).

### 805.3.6 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS

Victims of domestic violence or their representative shall be provided, without charge, one copy of all domestic violence incident report face sheets, one copy of all domestic violence incident reports, or both, pursuant to the requirements and time frames of Family Code § 6228.

## **805.4 PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

Any department member who receives a request for any record shall route the request to the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee.

### 805.4.1 REQUESTS FOR RECORDS

Any member of the public, including the media and elected officials, may access unrestricted records of this department, during regular business hours by submitting a written and signed request that reasonably describes each record sought and paying any associated fees (Government Code § 6253).

The processing of requests for any record is subject to the following (Government Code § 6253):

- (a) The Department is not required to create records that do not exist.
- (b) Victims of an incident or their authorized representative shall not be required to show proof of legal presence in the United States to obtain department records or information. If identification is required, a current driver's license or identification card issued by any state in the United States, a current passport issued by the United States or a foreign government with which the United States has a diplomatic relationship or current Matricula Consular card is acceptable (Government Code § 6254.30).
- (c) Either the requested record or the reason for non-disclosure will be provided promptly, but no later than 10 days from the date of request, unless unusual circumstances preclude doing so. If more time is needed, an extension of up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee. If an extension is authorized, the Department shall provide the requester written notice that includes the reason for the extension and the anticipated date of the response.
  1. When the request does not reasonably describe the records sought, the Custodian of Records shall assist the requester in making the request focused and effective in a way to identify the records or information that would be responsive to the request including providing assistance for overcoming any practical basis for denying access to the records or information. The Custodian of Records shall also assist in describing the information technology and physical location in which the record exists (Government Code § 6253.1).
  2. If the record requested is available on the department website, the requester may be directed to the location on the website where the record is posted. If the

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requester is unable to access or reproduce the record, a copy of the record shall be promptly provided.

- (d) Upon request, a record shall be provided in an electronic format utilized by the Department. Records shall not be provided only in electronic format unless specifically requested (Government Code § 6253.9).
- (e) When a record contains material with release restrictions and material that is not subject to release restrictions, the restricted material shall be redacted and the unrestricted material released.
  - 1. A copy of the redacted release should be maintained in the case file for proof of what was actually released and as a place to document the reasons for the redactions. If the record is audio or video, a copy of the redacted audio/video release should be maintained in the department-approved media storage system and a notation should be made in the case file to document the release and the reasons for the redacted portions.
- (f) If a record request is denied in whole or part, the requester shall be provided a written response that includes the statutory exemption for withholding the record or facts that the public interest served by nondisclosure outweighs the interest served by disclosure (Government Code § 6255). The written response shall also include the names, titles or positions of each person responsible for the denial.

### **805.5 RELEASE RESTRICTIONS**

Examples of release restrictions include:

- (a) Personal identifying information, including an individual's photograph; Social Security and driver identification numbers; name, address, and telephone number; and medical or disability information that is contained in any driver license record, motor vehicle record, or any department record including traffic collision reports, are restricted except as authorized by the Department, and only when such use or disclosure is permitted or required by law to carry out a legitimate law enforcement purpose (18 USC § 2721; 18 USC § 2722).
- (b) Social Security numbers (Government Code § 6254.29).
- (c) Personnel records, medical records, and similar records which would involve an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy except as allowed by law (Government Code § 6254; Penal Code § 832.7; Penal Code § 832.8; Evidence Code § 1043 et seq.).
  - 1. Peace officer personnel records that are deemed confidential shall not be made public or otherwise released to unauthorized individuals or entities absent a valid court order.
  - 2. The identity of any deputy subject to any criminal or administrative investigation shall not be released without the consent of the involved deputy, prior approval of the Sheriff, or as required by law.
- (d) Victim information that may be protected by statutes, including victims of certain crimes who have requested that their identifying information be kept confidential, victims who are minors, and victims of certain offenses (e.g., sex crimes or human trafficking, Penal Code § 293). Addresses and telephone numbers of a victim or a witness to any

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arrested person or to any person who may be a defendant in a criminal action shall not be disclosed, unless it is required by law (Government Code § 6254; Penal Code § 841.5).

1. Victims of certain offenses (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, adult abuse) or their representatives shall be provided, upon request and without charge, one copy of all incident report face sheets, one copy of all incident reports, or both, pursuant to the requirements and time frames of Family Code § 6228.
  2. Victims of sexual assault, upon written request, shall be provided a free copy of the initial crime report regardless of whether the report has been closed. Personal identifying information may be redacted (Penal Code § 680.2(b)).
- (e) Video or audio recordings created during the commission or investigation of the crime of rape, incest, sexual assault, domestic violence, or child abuse that depicts the face, intimate body part, or voice of a victim of the incident except as provided by Government Code § 6254.4.5.
- (f) Information involving confidential informants, intelligence information, information that would endanger the safety of any person involved, or information that would endanger the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation. This includes analysis and conclusions of investigating deputies (Evidence Code § 1041; Government Code § 6254).
1. Absent a statutory exemption to the contrary or other lawful reason to deem information from reports confidential, information from unrestricted agency reports shall be made public as outlined in Government Code § 6254(f).
- (g) Local criminal history information including but not limited to arrest history and disposition, and fingerprints shall only be subject to release to those agencies and individuals set forth in Penal Code § 13300.
1. All requests from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) shall be referred to the District Attorney, County Counsel, or the courts pursuant to Penal Code § 1054.5.
- (h) Certain types of reports involving but not limited to child abuse and molestation (Penal Code § 11167.5), elder and dependent abuse (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15633), and juveniles (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827).
- (i) Sealed autopsy and private medical information concerning a murdered child with the exceptions that allow dissemination of those reports to law enforcement agents, prosecutors, defendants, or civil litigants under state and federal discovery laws (Code of Civil Procedure §130).
- (j) Information contained in applications for licenses to carry firearms or other files that indicates when or where the applicant is vulnerable or which contains medical or psychological information (Government Code § 6254).
- (k) Traffic collision reports (and related supplemental reports) shall be considered confidential and subject to release only to the California Highway Patrol, Department

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of Motor Vehicles (DMV), other law enforcement agencies, and those individuals and their authorized representatives set forth in Vehicle Code § 20012.

- (l) Any record created exclusively in anticipation of potential litigation involving this department (Government Code § 6254).
- (m) Any memorandum from legal counsel until the pending litigation has been adjudicated or otherwise settled (Government Code § 6254.25).
- (n) Records relating to the security of the department's electronic technology systems (Government Code § 6254.19).
- (o) A record of a civilian complaint, or the investigations, findings, or dispositions of that complaint if the complaint is frivolous, as defined by Code of Civil Procedure § 128.5, or if the complaint is unfounded (Penal Code § 832.7 (b)(8)).
- (p) Any other record not addressed in this policy shall not be subject to release where such record is exempt or prohibited from disclosure pursuant to state or federal law, including but not limited to provisions of the Evidence Code relating to privilege (Government Code § 6254).
- (q) Information connected with juvenile court proceedings or the detention or custody of a juvenile. Federal officials may be required to obtain a court order to obtain certain juvenile information (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827.9; Welfare and Institutions Code § 827.95; Welfare and Institutions Code § 831).

### **805.6 SUBPOENAS AND DISCOVERY REQUESTS**

Any member who receives a subpoena duces tecum or discovery request for records should promptly contact a supervisor and the Custodian of Records for review and processing. While a subpoena duces tecum may ultimately be subject to compliance, it is not an order from the court that will automatically require the release of the requested information.

Generally, discovery requests and subpoenas from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) should be referred to the District Attorney, County Counsel or the courts.

All questions regarding compliance with any subpoena duces tecum or discovery request should be promptly referred to legal counsel for the Department so that a timely response can be prepared.

### **805.7 SECURITY BREACHES**

The Records Supervisor shall ensure notice is given anytime there is a reasonable belief an unauthorized person has acquired unencrypted personal identifying information stored in any Department information system (Civil Code § 1798.29).

Notice shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable to all individuals whose information may have been acquired. The notification may be delayed if the Department determines that notification will impede a criminal investigation or any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and restore the reasonable integrity of the data system.

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For the purposes of this requirement, personal identifying information includes an individual's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following:

- Social security number
- Driver license number or California identification card number
- Account number, credit or debit card number, in combination with any required security code, access code or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account
- Medical information
- Health insurance information
- A user name or email address, in combination with a password or security question and answer that permits access to an online account

### 805.7.1 FORM OF NOTICE

- (a) The notice shall be written in plain language and include, to the extent possible, the following:
1. The date of the notice.
  2. Name and contact information for the Shasta County Sheriff's Office.
  3. A list of the types of personal information that were or are reasonably believed to have been acquired.
  4. The estimated date or date range within which the security breach occurred.
  5. Whether the notification was delayed as a result of a law enforcement investigation.
  6. A general description of the security breach.
  7. The toll-free telephone numbers and addresses of the major credit reporting agencies, if the breach exposed a social security number or a driver's license or California identification card number.
- (b) The notice may also include information about what the Shasta County Sheriff's Office has done to protect individuals whose information has been breached and may include information on steps that the person whose information has been breached may take to protect him/herself.
- (c) When a breach involves an online account, and only a user name or email address in combination with either a password or security question and answer that would permit access to an online account, and no other personal information has been breached:
1. Notification may be provided electronically or in another form directing the person to promptly change either his/her password or security question and



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answer, as applicable, or to take other appropriate steps to protect the online account with the Department in addition to any other online accounts for which the person uses the same user name or email address and password or security question and answer.

### 805.7.2 MANNER OF NOTICE

- (a) Notice may be provided by one of the following methods:
  - 1. Written notice.
  - 2. Electronic notice if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions regarding electronic records and signatures set forth in 15 USC § 7001.
  - 3. Substitute notice if the cost of providing notice would exceed \$250,000, the number of individuals exceeds 500,000 or the Department does not have sufficient contact information. Substitute notice shall consist of all of the following:
    - (a) Email notice, when the Department has an email address for the subject person.
    - (b) Conspicuous posting of the notice on the Department's webpage.
  - 4. Notification to major statewide media and the California Information Security Office within the California Department of Technology.
- (b) If a single breach requires the Department to notify more than 500 California residents, the Department shall electronically submit a sample copy of the notification, excluding any personally identifiable information, to the Attorney General.

### **805.8 RELEASE OF AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDINGS RELATED TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS**

Video and audio recordings related to critical incidents shall be released upon a proper public record request and subject to delayed release, redaction, and other release restrictions as provided by law (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

For purposes of this section, a video or audio recording relates to a critical incident if it depicts an incident involving the discharge of a firearm at a person by a deputy, or depicts an incident in which the use of force by a deputy against a person resulted in death or in great bodily injury (as defined by Penal Code § 243(f)(4)) (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

The Custodian of Records should work as appropriate with the Sheriff or the Administrative Sergeant supervisor in determining what recordings may qualify for disclosure when a request for a recording is received and if the requested recording is subject to delay from disclosure, redaction, or other release restrictions.

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### 805.8.1 DELAY OF RELEASE

Disclosure of critical incident recordings during active criminal or administrative investigations may be delayed as follows if disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation, such as by endangering the safety of a witness or a confidential source:

- (a) Disclosure may be delayed up to 45 days from the date the Department knew or reasonably should have known about the incident.
- (b) Delay of disclosure may continue after the initial 45 days and up to one year if the Department demonstrates that disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation.
- (c) Any delay of disclosure longer than one year must be supported by clear and convincing evidence that disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

### 805.8.2 NOTICE OF DELAY OF RELEASE

When there is justification to delay disclosure of a recording, the Custodian of Records shall provide written notice to the requester as follows (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)):

- (a) During the initial 45 days, the Custodian of Records shall provide the requester with written notice of the specific basis for the determination that disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation. The notice shall also include the estimated date for the disclosure.
- (b) When delay is continued after the initial 45 days, the Custodian of Records shall promptly provide the requester with written notice of the specific basis for the determination that the interest in preventing interference with an active investigation outweighs the public interest in the disclosure, and the estimated date for the disclosure. The Custodian of Records should work with the Sheriff in reassessing the decision to continue withholding a recording and notify the requester every 30 days.

Recordings withheld shall be disclosed promptly when the specific basis for withholding the recording is resolved.

### 805.8.3 REDACTION

If the Custodian of Records, in consultation with the Sheriff or authorized designee, determines that specific portions of the recording may violate the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person depicted in the recording, the Department should use redaction technology to redact portions of recordings made available for release. The redaction should not interfere with the viewer's ability to fully, completely, and accurately comprehend the events captured in the recording, and the recording should not otherwise be edited or altered (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

If any portions of a recording are withheld to protect the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person depicted in the recording, the Custodian of Records shall provide in writing to the requester the specific basis for the expectation of privacy and the public interest served (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

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### 805.8.4 RECORDINGS WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

If the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person depicted in the recording cannot adequately be protected through redaction, and that interest outweighs the public interest in disclosure, the Department may withhold the recording from the public, except that the recording, either redacted or unredacted, shall be disclosed promptly, upon request, to any of the following (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)):

- (a) The person in the recording whose privacy is to be protected, or his/her authorized representative.
- (b) If the person is a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the person whose privacy is to be protected.
- (c) If the person whose privacy is to be protected is deceased, an heir, beneficiary, designated immediate family member, or authorized legal representative of the deceased person whose privacy is to be protected.

If the Department determines that this disclosure would substantially interfere with an active criminal or administrative investigation, the Custodian of Records shall provide the requester with written notice of the specific basis for the determination and the estimated date of disclosure (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

The Department may continue to delay release of the recording from the public for 45 days with extensions as provided in this policy (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)(A)).