

Court Appearance And Subpoenas

348.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This procedure has been established to provide for the acceptance of subpoenas and to ensure that employees appear when subpoenaed, or are available to appear in court when requested and present a professional appearance.

348.1.1 DEFINITIONS

On-Call - When an employee has appeared in court, or is at the time on-duty, and has been told by a member of the court that he/she is free to leave the court or return to duty, subject to being available by phone or pager if called back.

Standby - When an employee receives a subpoena of a type which allows him or her to not appear in court, but remain available by phone or pager so that he or she may be directed to appear in court within a reasonable amount of time.

Trailing Status - When an employee remains on standby status for additional court sessions until notified otherwise.

Mandatory Appearance - Subpoenas marked as mandatory appearance require an employee's physical appearance in the specified court. Failure to timely appear in the specified court, either intentionally or by negligence, may result in disciplinary action.

348.2 COURT SUBPOENAS

Employees who receive subpoenas related to their employment with this department are subject to the provisions of this policy. Employees should be aware that their compliance is mandatory on all cases for which they have been properly subpoenaed, or properly notified. This policy applies to civil and criminal subpoenas.

For purposes of this policy Trial by Declaration is a form of subpoena and shall be subject to all applicable rules as civil and criminal subpoena.

Employees are expected to cooperate with the prosecution to ensure the successful conclusion of a case.

348.2.1 SERVICE OF SUBPOENA

Service of a subpoena requiring the appearance of any department employee in connection with a matter arising out of the employee's course and scope of official duties may be accomplished by personal service on the employee or by delivery of the subpoena on the employee's supervisor or other authorized departmental agent (Government Code § 68097.1 and Penal Code § 1328(c)). Subpoena service is also acceptable by courier or court liaison from the court to this department.

348.2.2 VALID SUBPOENAS

No subpoena shall be accepted for an employee of this department unless it has been properly served and verified to have originated from a recognized legal authority.

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348.2.3 ACCEPTANCE OF SUBPOENA

- (a) Only the employee named in a subpoena, an immediate supervisor or the department subpoena clerk shall be authorized to accept service of a subpoena. (Penal Code § 1328(c)). Any authorized employee accepting a subpoena shall immediately provide a copy of the subpoena to the sergeant on duty. The sergeants shall maintain a chronological log of all department subpoenas and provide a copy of the subpoena to each involved employee. The Official Subpoena Clerk is the Assistant to the Chief of Police.
- (b) Any supervisor or other authorized individual accepting a subpoena on behalf of another employee shall immediately check available schedules to determine the availability of the named employee for the date listed on the subpoena.
- (c) Once a subpoena has been received by a supervisor or other authorized individual, a copy of the subpoena shall be promptly provided to the sergeant on duty who will provide a copy to the individually named employee.
- (d) Trail by Declaration forms shall be treated the same as a subpoena, completed appropriately, approved by a supervisor, and returned to the court in a timely manner.
- (e) The original subpoena shall be filed with the case report.

348.2.4 REFUSAL OF SUBPOENA

Except where previous arrangements with the issuing court exist, training, vacations and regularly scheduled days off are not valid reasons for refusing a subpoena or missing court. If, due to illness or injury, the named employee is unable to appear in court as directed by a previously served subpoena, he/she shall, at least one hour before the appointed date and time, inform the subpoena clerk or the Watch Commander of his/her absence. It shall then be the responsibility of the subpoena clerk to notify the issuing authority of the employee's unavailability to appear.

If the immediate supervisor or other authorized individual knows that he/she will be unable to deliver a copy of the subpoena to the named employee within sufficient time for the named employee to comply with the subpoena, the supervisor or other authorized individual may refuse to accept service (Penal Code § 1328(d)).

If a subpoena is presented for service to an immediate supervisor or other authorized individual less than five working days prior to the date listed for an appearance and the supervisor or other authorized individual is not reasonably certain that the service can be completed, he/she may refuse to accept service (Penal Code § 1328(e)).

If, after initially accepting service of a subpoena, a supervisor or other authorized individual determines that he/she will be unable to deliver a copy of the subpoena to the individually named employee within sufficient time for the named employee to comply with the subpoena, the supervisor or the subpoena clerk shall notify the server or the attorney named on the subpoena of such not less than 48 hours prior to the date listed for the appearance (Penal Code § 1328(f)).

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348.2.5 COURT STANDBY

To facilitate court standby agreements with the courts, employees are required to provide and maintain current information on their address and phone number with the Department. Employees are required to notify the Department within 24 hours of any change in residence address or home phone number, and to provide accurate and reasonably reliable means or methods for contact

If an employee on standby changes his/her location during the day, the employee shall notify the subpoena clerk of how he/she can be reached by telephone. Employees are required to remain on standby each day the case is trailing. In a criminal case the Deputy District Attorney handling the case is the only person authorized to excuse an employee from standby status.

A University Police Supervisor is the only person(s) with authority to grant standby, on-call, or trailing status.

348.2.6 OFF-DUTY RELATED SUBPOENAS

Employees receiving valid subpoenas for actions taken off-duty not related to their employment with CSU Police Department, San Luis Obispo shall comply with the requirements of the subpoena. Employees receiving these subpoenas are not compensated for their appearance and arrangements for time off shall be coordinated through their immediate supervisor.

348.2.7 FAILURE TO APPEAR

Any employee who fails to comply with the terms of any valid and properly served subpoena may be subject to discipline as well as court imposed civil and/or criminal sanctions.

348.3 CIVIL SUBPOENAS

The Department will compensate employees who appear in their official capacity on civil matters arising out of the employee's official duties as directed by the current Memorandum of Understanding. In such situations, the Department will also reimburse any officer for reasonable and necessary travel expenses.

The Department will receive reimbursement for the officer's compensation through the civil attorney of record who subpoenaed the officer.

348.3.1 PROCEDURE

To ensure that the officer is able to appear when required, that the officer is compensated for such appearance, and to protect the Department's right to reimbursement, officers shall follow the established procedures for the receipt of a civil subpoena.

348.3.2 CIVIL SUBPOENA ACCEPTANCE

Subpoenas shall not be accepted in a civil action in which the officer or Department is not a party without properly posted fees pursuant to Government Code § 68097.6.

348.3.3 PARTY MUST DEPOSIT FUNDS

The party in the civil action that seeks to subpoena an officer must deposit the statutory fee of \$275 (Government Code § 68097.2) for each appearance before such subpoena will be accepted.

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Parties seeking to have the officer make multiple appearances must make an additional deposit in advance.

348.4 OVERTIME APPEARANCES

If the officer appeared on his/her off-duty time, he/she will be compensated in accordance with the current employee Memorandum of Understanding.

The overtime on such appearance will be paid from the time the officer left the department until he/she returned.

348.5 COURTROOM PROTOCOL

Employees must be punctual when appearing in court and shall be prepared to proceed immediately with the case for which they are subpoenaed.

348.5.1 PREPARATION FOR TESTIMONY

Before the date of testifying, the subpoenaed officer shall request a copy of relevant reports and become familiar with their content in order to be prepared for court.

348.5.2 COURTROOM ATTIRE

Employees shall dress in uniform or business attire. Suitable business attire for men would consist of a coat, tie, and dress pants. Suitable business attire for female employees would consist of a dress jacket, dress blouse, and skirt or slacks.

348.6 COURTHOUSE DECORUM

Employees shall observe all rules of the court in which they are appearing, refrain from smoking or chewing gum in the courtroom, and shall remain alert to changes in the assigned courtroom where their matter is to be heard.

348.7 TESTIFYING AGAINST THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE

Any member or employee who is subpoenaed to testify, who has agreed to testify, or who anticipates testifying or providing information on behalf of or at the request of any party other than the People of the State of California, any county, any city, or any of their officers and employees in which any of those entities are parties, will notify their immediate supervisor without delay. The supervisor will then notify the Chief of Police, District Attorney's Office in criminal cases, County Counsel, City Attorney, or University Counsel, as may be indicated by the case.

This includes, but is not limited to the following situations:

- (a) Providing testimony or information for the defense in any criminal trial or proceeding;
- (b) Providing testimony or information for the plaintiff in a civil proceeding against any county, any city, or their officers and employees; or
- (c) Providing testimony or information on behalf of or at the request of any party other than any County, city, or any county or city official in any administrative proceeding, including but not limited to personnel and/or disciplinary matter.

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