



AZ POST

INTEGRITY BULLETIN

*Volume No. 92
First Quarter 2020*



The Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZ POST) is mandated by the legislature to establish and enforce the physical, mental, and moral fitness standards, for all peace officers, in the state. The Board meets the charge to protect the public by overseeing the integrity of Arizona's law enforcement officers by reviewing cases and taking action against the certification of individuals who violate the AZ POST Rules. The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board at its January, February, and April, 2020 public meetings. (There was no meeting in March). These actions are not precedent setting, in the sense that similar cases will end with the same result, because each case is considered on its individual facts and circumstances.

The Board publishes this bulletin to provide insight into the Board's position on various types of officer misconduct. As always, the Compliance Specialist for your agency is available to discuss any matter and to assist you with any questions you might have.

REVOCATIONS:

Case #19-093. An officer provided false information in a DUI arrest report and was then not truthful to defense counsel during a recorded defense interview.

Case #19-020. An officer illegally purchased a large quantity of Stanozolol, which is a Schedule 3 dangerous drug-anabolic steroid.

Case #19-088. An officer, while an advisor for a police youth explorer program, was charged with having a sexual relationship with an underaged police explorer. Subsequently, the officer was not truthful to investigators.

Case #19-035. In two separate incidents, over a six month period, an officer, while off duty, was involved in two hit and run accidents and was arrested twice for DUI drugs.

Case #19-025. An officer engaged in pattern of behavior by checking out at a location in her patrol division but then subsequently went outside of the patrol division without a supervisors' approval. The officer was not truthful to investigators.

Case #20-003. An officer pled guilty to a class 6 felony which was cause for mandatory revocation.

SUSPENSIONS:

None in this quarter.

DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION:

None in this quarter.

VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENTS:

The Board accepted the following voluntary relinquishments/denials of peace officer certification. Respondents, without admitting any allegations made against them, permanently relinquished their Arizona peace officer certifications.

Case #17-042	Case #19-203	Case #19-111	Case #19-067
Case #19-143	Case #19-004	Case #19-070	Case #19-037
Case #19-183	Case #20-001	Case #19-218	Case #19-209
Case #19-141	Case #17-162	Case #19-078	Case #19-072

NO ACTIONS:

At the January, February and April meetings, (there was no March meeting) the Board voted to close out the following cases without initiating a Complaint for disciplinary action. This is neither a finding that no misconduct occurred nor a comment that the Board condones the conduct. In fact, the Board's rules are very broad and all misconduct violates one or more of the disciplinary rules. The Board may choose not to initiate a Complaint in a case even though there is misconduct if, considering all the circumstances, including agency discipline, the conduct does not rise to the level requiring a formal administrative proceeding. In many of these cases, the Board makes a statement that the conduct is an important consideration for a future hiring agency. By not taking disciplinary action, the Board leaves the matter to the discretion of an agency head who may choose to consider the officer for appointment. The Board relies on and enforces the statutory requirement of A.R.S. §41-1828.01 that agencies share information about misconduct with each other, even in cases where the Board has chosen not to take additional independent disciplinary action. Additionally, in some of these cases, further information is necessary before a charging decision can be properly made.

Case #19-201. A recruit, during academy training, quoted a disparaging line from the movie Tombstone; which is a Western movie directed by George Cosmatos.