

Confidential Informants

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In many instances, a successful investigation cannot be conducted without the use of confidential informants. To protect the integrity of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office and the deputies using informants, it shall be the policy of this department to take appropriate precautions by developing sound informant policies.

606.2 USE OF INFORMANTS

Sufficient information should be compiled to determine the reliability and credibility of the informant. Deputies assigned to narcotic teams will follow the informant policy for their respective unit.

606.2.1 JUVENILE INFORMANTS

The use of juvenile informants under the age of 13-years is prohibited. Except as provided for in the enforcement of the Tobacco Enforcement Act, Business & Professions Code §§ 22950, et seq., the use of any juvenile informant between the ages of 13 and 18-years is only authorized by court order obtained pursuant to Penal Code § 701.5.

For purposes of this policy, a "juvenile informant" means any juvenile who participates, on behalf of this department, in a prearranged transaction or series of prearranged transactions with direct face-to-face contact with any party, when the juvenile's participation in the transaction is for the purpose of obtaining or attempting to obtain evidence of illegal activity by a third party and where the juvenile is participating in the transaction for the purpose of reducing or dismissing a pending juvenile petition against the juvenile.

606.3 GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

606.3.1 RELATIONSHIPS WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

No member of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office shall knowingly maintain a social relationship with a confidential informant while off duty, or otherwise become intimately involved with a confidential informant. Members of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities nor engage in any private business transaction with a confidential informant.

To maintain deputy/informant integrity, the following must be adhered to:

- (a) Deputies shall not withhold the identity of an informant from their superiors
- (b) Identities of informants shall otherwise be kept confidential
- (c) Criminal activity by informants, outside the scope of an investigation, shall not be condoned
- (d) Informants shall be told they are not acting as sheriff's deputies, employees or agents of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, and that they shall not represent themselves as such

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- (e) The relationship between deputies and informants shall always be ethical and professional
- (f) Social contact shall be avoided unless necessary to conduct an official investigation, and only with prior approval of a supervisor
- (g) Deputies shall not meet with informants of the opposite sex in a private place unless accompanied by at least one additional deputy or with prior approval of a supervisor. Deputies may meet informants of the opposite sex alone in an occupied public place such as a restaurant. When contacting informants of either sex for the purpose of making payments deputies shall arrange for the presence of another deputy, whenever possible