

Purpose

It is the purpose of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office to patrol in a proactive manner, to aggressively investigate suspicious persons and circumstances, and to actively enforce criminal and motor vehicle laws.

Policy

All personnel, prior to assuming sworn status, take an oath of office to enforce the laws of the State of Maryland, and to uphold and defend the constitutions of the State of Maryland and the United States. That oath, requires deputies to respect the constitutional rights of all, to liberty, equality, and justice. It is the policy of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office to ensure that citizens are not stopped or detained based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or other group traits.

Procedure

- A. Deputies of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office will only stop or detain persons when they have reasonable suspicion to believe that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an infraction of the law. Enforcement is normally considered:
 - 1) Terry stops (suspicious persons or vehicles)
 - 2) Traffic stops
 - 3) Initiation of prosecution
 - 4) Search and/or seizure of persons or property
 - 5) Asset forfeiture

- B. All complaints of biased-based profiling will be referred to the Director of Law Enforcement or his designee. Any review or investigation of a deputy's conduct as it relates to biased based enforcement may result in appropriate discipline and/or training as described in Chapter 2, Code of Conduct.

- C. Complaints against personnel will be processed under procedures listed in Cecil County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure Manual, Chapter 2, Code of Conduct and consistent with this section.

Training

All sworn personnel will receive training every three years in the legal and public perception of biased profiling.