

Records Unit

801.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines for the operational functions of the Oakley Police Department Records Unit. The policy addresses department file access and internal requests for case reports.

801.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Oakley Police Department to maintain department records securely, professionally, and efficiently.

801.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

801.3.1 RECORDS MANAGER

The Chief of Police shall appoint and delegate certain responsibilities to a Records Manager. The Records Manager shall be directly responsible to the Administration Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the Records Manager include but are not limited to:

- (a) Overseeing the efficient and effective operation of the Records Unit.
- (b) Scheduling and maintaining Records Unit time records.
- (c) Supervising, training, and evaluating Records Unit staff.
- (d) Maintaining and updating a Records Unit procedure manual.
- (e) Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures.
- (f) Supervising the access, use, and release of protected information (see the Protected Information Policy).
- (g) Establishing security and access protocols for case reports designated as sensitive, where additional restrictions to access have been implemented. Sensitive reports may include but are not limited to:
 1. Homicides.
 2. Cases involving department members or public officials.
 3. Any case where restricted access is prudent.

801.3.2 RECORDS UNIT

The responsibilities of the Records Unit include but are not limited to:

- (a) Maintaining a records management system for case reports.
 1. The records management system should include a process for numbering, identifying, tracking, and retrieving case reports.
- (b) Entering case report information into the records management system.

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1. Modification of case reports shall only be made when authorized by a supervisor.
- (c) Providing members of the Department with access to case reports when needed for investigation or court proceedings.
- (d) Maintaining compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding reporting requirements of crime statistics. This includes reporting statistical data to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) for:
 1. All officer-involved shootings and incidents involving use of force resulting in serious bodily injury (Government Code § 12525.2).
 2. Suspected hate crimes (Penal Code § 13023).
 3. Complaints of racial bias against officers (Penal Code § 13012; Penal Code § 13020).
 4. Civilian complaints made against officers (Penal Code § 832.5; Penal Code § 13012).
 5. Stop data required by Government Code § 12525.5 and 11 CCR 999.226.
 - (a) The reported information must not contain personally identifiable information of the person stopped or other information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Government Code § 12525.5 (11 CCR 999.228).
- (e) Maintaining compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding criminal history reports and auditing.
- (f) Identifying missing case reports and notifying the responsible member's supervisor.
- (g) Updating the Automated Firearms System to reflect any firearms relinquished to the Department and the subsequent disposition to the DOJ pursuant to Penal Code § 34010 (Penal Code § 29810).
- (h) Entering into the Automated Firearms System information about each firearm that has been reported stolen, lost, found, recovered, held for safekeeping, or under observation within seven calendar days of the precipitating event (Penal Code § 11108.2).
- (i) Maintaining compliance with the state and DOJ reporting requirements regarding the number of transfers of individuals to immigration authorities and offenses that allowed for the transfers (Government Code § 7284.6(c)(2)).
- (j) Transmitting data to the Joint Regional Information Exchange System on any suspected multi-mission extremist crimes.

801.3.3 RECORDS UNIT PROCEDURE MANUAL

The Records Manager should establish procedures that address:

- (a) Identifying by name persons in reports.
- (b) Classifying reports by type of incident or crime.
- (c) Tracking reports through the approval process.
- (d) Assigning alpha-numerical records to all arrest records.

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- (e) Managing a warrant and wanted persons file.

801.4 FILE ACCESS AND SECURITY

The security of files in the Records Unit must be a high priority and shall be maintained as mandated by state or federal law. All case reports including but not limited to initial, supplemental, follow-up, evidence, and any other reports related to a police department case, including field interview (FI) cards, criminal history records, and publicly accessible logs, shall be maintained in a secure area within the Records Unit, accessible only by authorized members of the Records Unit. Access to case reports or files when Records Unit staff is not available may be obtained through the Watch Commander.

The Records Unit will also maintain a secure file for case reports deemed by the Chief of Police as sensitive or otherwise requiring extraordinary access restrictions.

801.5 ORIGINAL CASE REPORTS

Generally, original case reports shall not be removed from the Records Unit. Should an original case report be needed for any reason, the requesting department member shall first obtain authorization from the Records Manager. All original case reports removed from the Records Unit shall be recorded on a designated report check-out log, which shall be the only authorized manner by which an original case report may be removed from the Records Unit.

All original case reports to be removed from the Records Unit shall be photocopied and the photocopy retained in the file location of the original case report until the original is returned to the Records Unit. The photocopied report shall be shredded upon return of the original report to the file.

801.6 CONFIDENTIALITY

Records Unit staff has access to information that may be confidential or sensitive in nature. Records Unit staff shall not access, view, or distribute, or allow anyone else to access, view, or distribute any record, file, or report, whether in hard copy or electronic file format, or any other confidential, protected, or sensitive information except in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release and Protected Information policies and the Records Unit procedure manual.

801.7 DETERMINATION OF FACTUAL INNOCENCE

In any case where a person has been arrested by officers of the Oakley Police Department and no accusatory pleading has been filed, the person arrested may petition the Department to destroy the related arrest records. Petitions should be forwarded to the Administration Supervisor. The Administration Supervisor should promptly contact the prosecuting attorney and request a written opinion as to whether the petitioner is factually innocent of the charges (Penal Code § 851.8). Factual innocence means the accused person did not commit the crime.

Upon receipt of a written opinion from the prosecuting attorney affirming factual innocence, the Administration Supervisor should forward the petition to the Investigations Unit Supervisor

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and the City Attorney for review. After such review and consultation with the City Attorney, the Investigations Unit Supervisor and the Administration Supervisor shall decide whether a finding of factual innocence is appropriate.

Upon determination that a finding of factual innocence is appropriate, the Administration Supervisor shall ensure that the arrest record and petition are sealed for later destruction and the required notifications are made to the California DOJ and other law enforcement agencies (Penal Code § 851.8).

The Administration Supervisor should respond to a petition with the Department's decision within 45 days of receipt. Responses should include only the decision of the Department, not an explanation of the analysis leading to the decision.

801.8 ARREST WITHOUT FILING OF ACCUSATORY PLEADING

The Operations Division Commander should ensure a process is in place for when an individual is arrested and released and no accusatory pleading is filed so that the following occurs (Penal Code § 849.5; Penal Code § 851.6):

- (a) The individual is issued a certificate describing the action as a detention.
- (b) All references to an arrest are deleted from the arrest records of the Department and the record reflects only a detention.
- (c) The California DOJ is notified.