

**Policy:** 1605.8, Employee Drug and Alcohol Screening

**Effective Date:** 5/27/2026

**Distribution Group:** All Employees

**Review Responsibility:** Internal Affairs Manager

**Accreditation Chapter(s):** None

**Chief of Police:** Eric D. Smith

## **Contents**

### **I. PURPOSE**

### **II. POLICY**

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

### **IV. PROCEDURES**

#### **1. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

#### **2. VOLUNTARY REHABILITATION**

#### **3. PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING DRUG AND ALCOHOL DETECTION TESTS**

#### **4. TESTING PROCEDURE**

#### **5. FINDINGS AND DISCIPLINE**

### **V. FORMS AND APPENDICES**

### **VI. REFERENCES**

## **I. PURPOSE**

The Orlando Police Department will not tolerate the use of narcotic drugs or controlled substances, either on or off duty.

## **II. POLICY**

This policy shall cover all employees including those newly hired up to and including the Chief of Police, except as otherwise provided by applicable bargaining agreements.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

Adulterated Specimen: A specimen that contains a substance that is not expected to be present in human urine or contains a substance expected to be present but is at a concentration so high it is not consistent with human urine.

Alcohol: Beverages containing alcohol, including distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages and intoxicating liquors.

Chain of Custody: Method of tracking specified materials or substances for the purpose of maintaining control and accountability from initial collection to final disposition for all such materials or substance and providing for accountability at each stage in handling, testing, and storing specimens, and reporting test results.

Confirmation Drug Test: “Confirmed Test” or “Confirmation Test.” A second analytical procedure used to identify the presence of a specific drug or metabolite in a specimen. The confirmation test must be different in scientific principle from that of the initial test procedure. This confirmation method must be capable of providing requisite specificity and quantitative accuracy.

Confirmation Alcohol Test: A second procedure used to identify the presence of alcohol.

Designated Employer Representative (DER): An employee designated by the City to take immediate action(s) to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes. The DER also receives test results and other communications to the City related to this policy and procedure.

Dilute Specimen: A specimen with creatinine and specific gravity values that are lower than expected for human urine as determined by a Medical Review Officer.

Driver: Any person who operates a City vehicle requiring a Florida Driver’s License Class A through E including regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent, or occasional drivers, and persons applying to become drivers.

Drugs: Cannabinoids or cannabinoid products with or without prescription; amphetamines; cocaine; phencyclidine (PCP); hallucinogens; methaqualone; opiates; barbiturates; benzodiazepine, synthetic narcotics; designer drugs; a metabolite of any of the substances listed herein; or any other drug that is an illegal and/or controlled substance as defined in Florida Statutes 893.13, not specifically listed above. This term includes the use of another’s prescription medication or misuse of any prescription medication.

Drug or Alcohol Test: Any breath, blood, or urine instrumental analysis administered for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of alcohol, a drug or its metabolites.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): A service provided by the City to assist employees and their families in identifying and resolving personal problems that may cause or contribute to work performance problems, which may include financial, marital, family, substance abuse, emotional/psychological, health or other concerns.

Initial Alcohol Test: A sensitive and reliable procedure to identify the presence of alcohol. The initial test will be by breathalyzer. If breath cannot be supplied, the initial alcohol test will be a blood test. If a blood test cannot be supplied, another scientifically-accepted method may be used.

Initial Drug Test: A sensitive and reliable procedure to identify negative and presumptive positive specimens. All initial tests shall use an immunoassay procedure or equivalent or shall use a more accurate scientifically-accepted method approved by the Agency for Health Care Administration as such more accurate technology becomes available in a cost-effective form.

Medical Review Officer (MRO): A licensed physician, employed by or contracted with an employer, who has knowledge of substance abuse disorders, laboratory testing procedures, and chain of custody collection procedures; who verifies positive, confirmed test results, and who has the necessary medical training to interpret and evaluate an employee's positive test result in relation to the employee's medical history or any other relevant biomedical information.

Negative Dilute: A diluted specimen that tests negative.

Occupational Health Medical Provider (OHMP): Contracted occupational medical provider as determined by the City of Orlando.

On Duty Accident: Any on-duty motor vehicle crash that results in personal injuries to either party, property damage (i.e., building, signage, etc.), or property damage to one or more vehicles. For the purposes of this policy, "on-duty" also includes working extra-duty and the commute to and from work.

Positive Dilute: A diluted specimen that tests positive.

Reasonable Suspicion Drug and Alcohol Testing: Drug and/or alcohol testing based on a belief that an employee is using or has used drugs in violation of the employer's policy drawn from specific objective and articulable facts and reasonable inferences drawn from those facts in light of experience.

Refuse to Submit/Refuse to Test:

- a. Failure to provide adequate applicable specimen, as listed throughout this Policy, for testing without valid medical explanations after receiving written notice of requirement. However, for urine testing, the employee shall be allowed three hours from arrival for testing to provide an adequate, applicable specimen. Employee will be provided a source of drinking water of at least 40 ounces for consumption and encouraged to consume at least 40 ounces of drinking water. If the employee is still unable to provide a urine specimen, a blood specimen may be obtained for testing. For breath alcohol testing, if the employee is unable to provide a sufficient breath sample, a blood specimen may be obtained for testing. If neither of these tests can be performed, another scientifically-accepted method may be used as determined by Centra Care
- b. Engaging in conduct that clearly obstructs the testing process.
- c. Failure to appear for any test within one hour after being directed to do so by the employer.
- d. Failure to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete.
- e. In the case of a directly observed or monitored collection, failure to permit the observation or monitoring of the employee's provision of specimen.
- f. Failure to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO as part of the verification process, or as directed by the DER as part of "shy bladder" procedures.
- g. Failure to cooperate with any part of the testing process; or
- h. Producing a verified test result indicating possible adulteration or substitution.

Once an individual arrives at the testing site, he or she cannot leave until a specimen has been collected. If he or she leaves the testing site, the site will notify the City and disciplinary actions will be taken.

Safety-Sensitive Position: Any position, including a supervisory or management position, in which drug or alcohol impairment would constitute an immediate and direct threat to public health or safety.

Substituted Specimen: A specimen with temperature, creatinine, and specific gravity values that are not consistent with human urine.

Verified Test: A drug test result or validity testing result that has undergone review and final determination by the MRO.

## IV. PROCEDURES

### 1. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Drugs: Use, possession, sale, solicitation, or being under the influence of drugs is prohibited at all times on or off the job, except as described in section 1.2.

- Initial Test: The initial screening may include any drug use or possession of which is illegal under current Florida or Federal law. There is a zero-tolerance threshold for the presence of illegal drugs. The testing will be done by a NIDA certified laboratory pursuant to NIDA standards.

#### 1.1 ALCOHOL

Use or being under the influence of alcohol is prohibited (except pursuant to managerial approval and necessary as part of an investigation)

- When in uniform.
- During work hours, including any breaks.
- While operating City equipment, including motor vehicles.
- An alcohol test reflecting a blood alcohol concentration of .02 or higher will result in a positive alcohol test.

#### 1.2 MEDICATIONS

- a. Employees who are taking any medication that includes a warning not to drive or operate heavy machinery must use available leave. However, if the employee is taking the medication as the result of on-the-job injury, the employee may request alternative duty, if available, which may be granted in the sole discretion of management.
- b. Unless covered by bullet point (a) above, prescription and over-the-counter drugs are not prohibited when taken in standard dosage and/or according to a physician's prescription. Provided, however, that marijuana/cannabinoids are prohibited at all times on or off duty.
- c. Any employee taking prescribed or over-the-counter medications will be responsible for consulting the prescribing physician and/or pharmacist to ascertain whether the medication may interfere with safe performance of his/her job. If the use of a medication could compromise the safety of the employee, fellow employees, or the public, it is the employee's responsibility to use appropriate personnel leave procedures.

## **2. VOLUNTARY REHABILITATION**

An employee, not currently under a Last Chance Agreement, at any time prior to any off duty incident which could lead to investigation, or prior to any order for testing, may voluntarily enter a chemical dependence rehabilitation program without disciplinary action being taken against him or her. A rehabilitation program shall include evaluation, counseling, treatment, and monitoring. The rehabilitation program shall not be considered time worked. Details concerning treatment received by any employee at this program shall remain confidential. If available, employees can use sick leave, personal leave, or other appropriate leave while undergoing rehabilitation.

Upon successful completion of rehabilitation, as determined by the program administrator and the City's MRO, an employee shall be returned to his/her regular duty assignment, subject to the restrictions outlined in this policy.

- a. Upon return to the employee's regular duty assignment, the employee will be subject to random drug testing, pursuant to the Department's random testing program, described below.
- b. In addition to the Department's standard random testing program described below, the City may require the employee to take up to three (3) additional randomly administered drug or alcohol tests within a twelve (12) month period following his/her return to work.

The voluntary referral program may be invoked only one (1) time in any consecutive ten (10) year period by an employee and may not be used to supersede aspects of a mandated rehabilitation program.

## **3. PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING DRUG AND ALCOHOL DETECTION TESTS**

An employee may be tested for drug or alcohol use as follows:

### **3.1 REASONABLE SUSPICION TESTING**

An employee may be subject to reasonable suspicion testing:

- a. When any supervisor or manager has reasonable suspicion, based upon specific objective facts and observations, including observations of others, to believe an employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on duty.

Such facts and observations may be based upon:

1. Observable phenomena while at work, such as direct observation of drug use or of the physical symptoms or manifestations of being under the influence of a drug.
2. Abnormal conduct or erratic behavior while at work or a significant deterioration in work performance.
3. A report of drug use, provided by a reliable and credible source, which has been independently corroborated.
4. Evidence that an individual has tampered with a drug test during employment with the current employer.
5. Information that an employee has caused, or contributed to, an accident while at work.
6. Evidence that an employee has used, possessed, sold, solicited, or transferred drugs.

- b. When the City has reasonable suspicion based upon specific objective facts and observations, other than as provided above, to believe an employee has used or possessed drugs, or has used or possessed alcohol while on duty.

Anonymous communications, without further corroboration, shall not constitute reasonable suspicion.

Prior to an employee being required to submit to reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing, a supervisor or Manager must document in writing who is to be tested and describe the specific objective facts or information allegedly constituting reasonable suspicion for testing. A Supervisor or Manager shall use the Reasonable Suspicion Observation and Reasonable Suspicion Drug & Alcohol Forms (Attachment C) to satisfy this requirement. Only a copy of the Reasonable Suspicion Drug & Alcohol form shall be provided to the employee prior to any testing commencing and a copy shall be furnished to Internal Affairs via BlueTeam before the end of the tour of duty.

When an employee is ordered to submit to reasonable suspicion testing for drug or alcohol use, the Internal Affairs Manager or any appropriate sworn manager shall relieve the member from duty and seize the employee's badge, identification, and firearm. When the employee is in uniform, but civilian clothes are available, the employee shall be directed to change.

A Supervisor or Manager shall transport the employee to and from the testing site and take the completed Reasonable Suspicion Drug & Alcohol Form (Attachment C). For after-hours testing, call 888-807-1020 (prompt 4) or 407-200-5490 to arrange for an after-hours PEN nurse to meet the employee and a Supervisor or Manager at OPD Headquarters.

The Supervisor or Manager shall ensure that the employee is not allowed to perform job-related tasks and shall remain with the employee until he or she is escorted home or turned over to a competent authority. Under no circumstances shall the employee undergoing reasonable suspicion testing be permitted to drive a City vehicle. If an employee insists on driving a personally-owned vehicle, he or she will be subject to Florida traffic laws. Driving privileges of City vehicles may be reinstated at the discretion of the Police Chief upon receipt of the testing results.

Supervisors or Managers of non-sworn employees will follow City policy as outlined in [808.4](#).

Employees who are being tested for reasonable suspicion under the provisions of this policy will be relieved of duty prior to testing. After the DER confirms the test(s) is negative, the employee may be returned to duty. If the results are positive, the matter will be referred for disciplinary action.

### **3.2 POST-ACCIDENT AND POST-ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE TESTING**

Below are the criteria where mandatory testing is required:

1. On Duty Accident (motor vehicle crash) where:
  - a. Officer is found at fault or fault cannot be determined. (This includes situations under [Florida State Statute 316.072](#) where the officer caused the crash. For example, an officer, while operating their vehicle with lights and sirens, enters an intersection against a red light without clearing the

- intersection and strikes a vehicle. In this example they would be found “not at fault” in the crash report but would require testing because their actions caused the crash.), **and**
- b. There is personal injury to either party involved in the crash, **and/or**
  - c. There is property damage (to vehicles or other real property) over \$500

If there is **no** report of injury and property damage (to vehicles or other real property) is **less than \$500**, no testing is required.

For the purposes of this policy, a parked OPD vehicle that is damaged by a non-OPD driver shall not be considered an accident requiring a drug and/or alcohol test.

- 2. All on and off-duty accidental discharges with department issued firearms, or approved firearms where the officer qualifies to carry per Policy and Procedure 1702, Firearms. All on-duty accidental discharges with any citizen owned/possessed firearm (e.g., a suspect’s firearm is accidentally discharged while clearing the firearm). This does not apply to accidental discharges occurring during department firearms training.

Employees are directed to inform their chain of command of any on-duty accident (motor vehicle crash) or accidental discharge immediately. The employee's supervising officer must complete the Post-Accident Drug & Alcohol Form (Attachment B) and provide a copy of the form for the employee to present at Centra Care for testing purposes. The employee shall report for drug and alcohol testing within one hour after the accident or as soon as operationally possible. For after-hours testing, call 888-807-1020 (prompt 4) or 407-200-5490 to arrange for an after-hours nurse to meet the officer at OPD Headquarters. A Drug Test module shall be completed in BlueTeam with the corresponding paperwork attached.

Employees who refuse to submit a breath, blood, or urine specimen following an accident, who fail to report an on-duty accident immediately, and supervising officers who fail to direct employees involved in accidents to report for drug and alcohol testing as required by this policy shall be charged with insubordination and can be disciplined up to and including termination.

### **3.3 RANDOM TESTING**

Random drug and/or alcohol tests will be spread throughout the year based on a computer program. With the exception to employees’ subject to a Last Chance Agreement set forth in Section 5 below, no employee will be randomly tested more than twice in a twelve (12) month period. No more than fifteen (15) percent of the bargaining unit membership will be randomly tested each calendar quarter. Employees subject to random testing include all sworn police officers and managers including reserve officers.

The city will utilize the services of a third-party Occupational Health Medical Provider (OHMP) to select the employees (or units) to be tested and perform all drug and or alcohol testing. The OHMP utilized shall be certified by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). This section does not apply to employees’ subject to a Last Chance Agreement set forth in Section 5 below.

### **3.3.1 RANDOM TESTING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

All notifications for random testing will be in writing and sent through BlueTeam. Each month, the Internal Affairs Manager or designee, will receive a list of names that were randomly selected from a computer program controlled by contracted OHMP along with the authorization form for testing the selected employees. The Internal Affairs Manager or designee will provide the appropriate Captain, or designee, with the Random Drug & Alcohol Employee Notification Form (Attachment A) via BlueTeam.

Attachment A will be provided to the affected employee. It will include notification of the employee's selection to participate in the Orlando Police Department's random drug and alcohol testing and will direct him or her to report immediately (within one hour) and directly, without delay, to a designated testing location. The corresponding paperwork will be uploaded to the Drug Test module in BlueTeam and forwarded to Internal Affairs.

In those situations where an employee has been selected for random testing but will not be available due to previously scheduled and approved military duty, vacation, medical leave, or any other previously scheduled and approved employment absence, the manager will notify Internal Affairs of the employee's status within 30 days. The employee's name will then be returned to the database with all other employees for possible reselection.

### **3.4 TESTING PRIOR TO TRANSFER**

Employees below the level of Captain will be required to submit to drug and alcohol testing:

- a. Prior to transfer into or out of a unit whose primary responsibilities include the enforcement of drug or alcohol laws.
- b. Prior to transfer into or out of a unit or position that requires the employee to take custody of and maintain direct control over drugs or alcohol used for training purposes.

For the purpose of this section, any negative random or post-accident test within the previous 6 months will satisfy this requirement.

## **4. TESTING PROCEDURE**

Employees are required to show picture identification before testing. Employees who refuse to submit a breath, blood, or urine specimen upon a proper order shall be charged with insubordination and can be disciplined up to and including termination.

All tests shall be conducted by a third party OHMP. Every effort shall be made to ensure the accuracy and confidentiality of the tests in accordance with federal and state guidelines and applicable legislation.

The testing facility shall conduct an initial drug and alcohol test. In the event of a positive drug or alcohol test, the testing facility shall proceed immediately to a confirmation test. The testing facility will immediately notify the Department of a positive breath alcohol test result or if the employee refuses to test.

The MRO will normally notify the City's Designated Employer Representative (DER) within three working days of the results, whether negative or positive.

#### **4.1 SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS**

The specimen collected must be unadulterated and must not be a substituted specimen. A positive-dilute result will be treated as a verified positive result.

If the result is a negative-dilute specimen, the employee will be required to take another test immediately and without advance notice. If the employee is off-duty and required to return for the second test, the employee will be paid for the time spent at the testing facility. If the employee receives a second negative-dilute specimen the result will be treated as negative.

#### **4.2 IF THE RESULT IS POSITIVE OR INVALID**

The MRO (or DER if the MRO is unable to make contact) shall contact the employee normally within three working days after receipt of the results of the test to notify them of the result. The employee must contact the MRO as directed and within 72 hours after the MRO or DER makes initial contact.

The MRO will review any circumstances the employee believes may mitigate the results of the positive test, including verifiable evidence of taking prescribed medication. The MRO may request physical examination or further medical evaluation as part of the verification process. If the MRO requires additional physical examination or further medical evaluation as part of the verification process, the City will absorb the cost.

The MRO will notify the DER by telephone of a positive screen. The DER will then immediately notify the Internal Affairs Manager or designee. The employee shall be immediately relieved of duty.

#### **4.3 RETESTING THE SAMPLE**

The employee or applicant may request a retest of the already submitted specimen by a NIDA certified laboratory of his or her choosing. The request shall be made in writing by the employee. The original laboratory will transfer the specimen using the proper protocols to preserve the chain of custody. The costs of providing for a second test will be borne by the requesting party. If the retest result is negative, the employee will be reimbursed for his or her reasonable costs of the test.

This option shall not delay any other aspects of the procedure outlines in this policy.

#### **4.4 EVIDENCE**

The testing facility shall maintain the chain of custody throughout their handling and testing as prescribed by [Florida Statutes 112.0455](#) and [440.102\(9\)](#) or their successors.

#### **4.5 CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, and drug test results, written or otherwise, received by the employer through a drug testing program will be considered confidential communications to the extent required by state and federal law.

This section does not prohibit the City, its agent(s), or laboratory conducting a drug or alcohol test program from having access to employee drug or alcohol test information or using such information when consulting with legal

counsel or in connection with actions brought under or related to this policy or when the information is relevant to its defense in a civil or administrative matter.

## **5. FINDINGS AND DISCIPLINE**

### **5.1 POSITIVE TEST**

For any instance of an employee testing positive in any drug or alcohol test administered pursuant to this policy, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination, as determined by the Chief of Police.

### **5.2 NEGATIVE TEST**

A negative finding and report may allow an Internal Affairs investigator to close the investigation. However, the investigation may be continued if sufficient information remains to determine a possible violation of departmental regulations.

In the first instance of testing positive for prescription drugs or alcohol only, if an employee is not terminated, the City may enter into a Last Chance Agreement with the employee. The employee shall then be evaluated and counseled by a professional mutually agreed upon by the employee and the City in order to determine what rehabilitation may be necessary.

Should rehabilitation be necessary, the employee shall enter into a program and be subject to further testing as stated in the Last Chance Agreement.

### **5.3 REFUSAL TO TEST**

Any employee who refuses to provide a sample requested pursuant to this policy shall be charged with insubordination, which may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### **5.4 CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS**

This provision shall not supersede or waive any rights enjoyed by employees under the Federal or State Constitutions or any other applicable law.

## **V.FORMS AND APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT A-Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Form

ATTACHMENT B-Post-Accident Drug and Alcohol Testing Form

ATTACHMENT C-Reasonable Suspicion Testing Form

## **VI.REFERENCES**

This policy rescinds Policy and Procedure 1605.7

Related Policies: [City Policy 808.4](#)

Related Laws: Not Applicable