
Seattle Police Department

DIRECTIVES



Date: JUNE 6, 2002

Directive: D02-40

ROLL CALL TRAINING

INQUIRIES INTO IMMIGRATION STATUS

It is the intent of the Seattle Police Department to foster trust and cooperation with all people in our City, and to encourage all complainants, witnesses and victims to communicate with Seattle Police officers without inquiry regarding their immigration status. Determining the status of an undocumented person in this country - barring any criminal activity - is a Federal civil violation not enforced by the municipal police department. Only INS can enforce federal laws relating to illegal entry and residence within the United States. NOTE: This policy is consistent with past training and procedures first promulgated by SPD in 1991.

The following is presented as a guideline for officers in their street contacts:

1. Request for specific documents for the sole purpose of determining someone's civil immigration status is not permitted. However, if offered by the person and not specifically requested by the officer, it is permissible to rely on immigration documents to establish someone's identity in response to a general request for identification.
2. Seattle police officers shall not initiate police action based solely on an individual's civil immigration status, nor shall they ask for identification or documents pertaining to the individual's status.
3. Per Seattle city ordinance, SMC section 4.18.010, the Seattle Police Department will assist Federal agencies as resources allow and while considering the enforcement priorities of the Department. Designated officers will be assigned to assist Federal agencies from time to time to arrest previously deported aliens who are currently involved in criminal activity. Any joint patrol with a federal agency will be with the express approval of the employees' commanding officer.

Requests for documents relating to someone's civil immigration status during street contacts applies whether officers are talking to victims, witnesses, suspects or persons of interest to another agency (such as the subject of an outstanding warrant). Under ordinary circumstances a general request for adequate identification as part of a criminal investigation is all that is necessary or appropriate. Questions concerning this issue should be directed to Leo Poort, Department Legal Advisor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.S. Kimerer".

Deputy Chief Clark Kimerer

Seattle Police Department

DIRECTIVES



Date: JUNE 20, 2002

Directive: D02-45

(Supercedes Directive D02-40 dated 6/6/02)

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