



## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2026 NEW POLICY RESOURCES TO KEEP OFFICERS SAFE

Chiefs of police play a critical role in reducing risk and improving outcomes by ensuring their agencies maintain clear, current, and legally sound policy guidance governing arrests, searches, execution of search warrants, temporary detention, and interviews of arrestees. Well-designed policies—supported by consistent, scenario-based training—help officers apply constitutional standards under real-world conditions, document decisions appropriately, and operate with a shared understanding of lawful authority and officer-safety tactics. Without this guidance and training, officers and agencies are more vulnerable to allegations of civil rights violations, unlawful detention, suppression of evidence, internal discipline, and costly litigation. Equally important, unclear or inconsistent direction during high-risk encounters increases the likelihood of serious injury or death to officers, subjects, and bystanders.

As the nation observes National Peace Officers' Memorial Day on May 15, chiefs of police are encouraged to review the newly issued sample policies, which provide critical guidance to strengthen constitutional compliance, reduce civil rights-related exposure, and enhance officer safety. Taking this action also helps agencies properly honor and remember the officers who lost their lives in the line of duty by applying lessons learned to better protect officers moving forward.

The sample policies listed below are now available in the [Law Enforcement Accreditation Plus Portal](#).

- **Adult Arrest and Transportation Sample Policy.** Includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Standardized definitions.
  - Complaint-processing procedures, including consistent use of the special complaint process.
  - Off-duty arrest procedures and restrictions.
  - Handcuffing guidance.
  - Medical care guidance, including references to the sample Medical Care Policy.
  - Arrestee identification procedures to reduce the risk of mistaken identity.
  - Seatbelt usage for people under arrest.
  - Officer-safety considerations, including the use of a sample form to support risk mitigation for planned arrests.
  
- **Search Warrants, No Knock, and Arrest Warrants Sample Policy.** Includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Police uniform and identification considerations, considering the New Jersey Law Enforcement Officer Protection Act.
  - New Jersey Attorney General requirements concerning the following:
    - Search warrant approvals and execution.
    - Municipal court bench warrants.
    - No Knock Warrants.
  - Community caretaking actions.
  - Officer-safety considerations, including the use of a sample form to support risk mitigation for planned arrests, TRO/FRO, and ERPO/TERPO service.
  - Interagency coordination and de-confliction.
  - After-action review requirements and near-miss incident follow-up actions.

- **Temporary Detention Sample Policy.** Includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Alternate care for arrestee dependents.
  - Prison Rape Elimination Act references.
  - Essential security considerations include the following:
    - Key access.
    - Panic buttons.
    - Emergency cutting tool.
  - Weapons security.
  - Spit barrier procedures and required supervisory notifications.
  - Medical care guidance beyond injuries associated with the use of force.
  - Meal guidance for detainees.
  - Suicide screening and actions.
  
- **Interview and Interrogation Sample Policy.** Includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Standardized definitions.
  - Access to counsel.
  - Interview room security.
  - Field note retention.
  - Electronic recording requirements.

**Additional Considerations for the Chief of Police:**

Review the National Police Week 2024 and National Police Week 2025 bulletins to confirm that all available resources have been implemented to strengthen officer safety and policy guidance. The 2024 and 2025 National Police Week bulletins include key resources on the following topics:

- Foot Pursuits – Critical officer safety issues.
- Officer Seatbelt Utilization.
- Ambush Attack Mitigation.
- Officer Wellness – EAP, family wellness, and more.
- Animal Control – Rabies considerations, animal abuse as an indicator of violence, and more.
- Medical Care – Beyond CPR and AED

The National Police Week 2024 and 2025 Law Enforcement Bulletins are available in [Law Enforcement Bulletins](#).

For questions, please contact your Law Enforcement Risk Control Consultant.