
Biased-Based Supervision

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD) members that affirms the County's commitment to supervision that is fair and objective.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of specified characteristics in probation activities designed to strengthen the department's relationship with its diverse communities (e.g., cultural and ethnicity awareness training, youth programs, community group outreach, and partnerships).

410.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Bias-based supervision - An inappropriate reliance on actual or perceived characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group (protected characteristics), as the basis for providing differing supervision services or enforcement of court orders.

410.2 POLICY

The HCPD is committed to providing supervision services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural, or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide probation services and to enforce the law and conditions set by the court equally, fairly, objectively, and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

410.3 BIAS-BASED SUPERVISION PROHIBITED

Bias-based supervision is strictly prohibited.

However, nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit an officer from considering protected characteristics in combination with credible, timely, and distinct information connecting a person or people of a specific characteristic to a specific unlawful incident, or to specific unlawful incidents, specific criminal patterns, or specific schemes.

410.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every member of this department shall perform their duties in a fair and objective manner and is responsible for promptly reporting any suspected or known instances of bias-based supervision to a supervisor. Members should, when reasonable to do so, intervene to prevent any bias-based actions by another member.

410.4.1 REASON FOR CONTACT

Officers contacting a person, not under the supervision of the HCPD, shall be prepared to articulate sufficient reason for the contact, independent of the protected characteristics of the individual.

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To the extent that written documentation would otherwise be completed (e.g., arrest report), the involved officer should include those facts giving rise to the contact.

Except for required data-collection forms or methods, nothing in this policy shall require any officer to document a contact that would not otherwise require reporting.

410.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should monitor those individuals under their command for compliance with this policy and shall handle any alleged or observed violations in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

- (a) Supervisors should discuss any issues with the involved officer and their supervisor in a timely manner. Supervisors should document these discussions in the prescribed manner.
- (b) Supervisors shall initiate investigations of any actual or alleged violations of this policy.
- (c) Supervisors should take prompt and reasonable steps to address any retaliatory action taken against any member of this department who discloses information concerning bias-based supervision.

410.6 TRAINING

Training on fair and objective supervision and review of this policy should be conducted as directed by the Training Manager.