

	MEDFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT	POLICY NO. 4.14a
Subject:		POLICE IDENTIFICATION
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 22.2.7		DATE OF ISSUE: 06/25/2023
ISSUING AUTHORITY: Michelle Guerette Chief of Police	EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/25/2023	REVISION DATE: 11/03/2025

BACKGROUND:

It is imperative that citizens who are approached or questioned by police officers be able to verify that the officer is actually a law enforcement officer. It is also important that sworn personnel carrying firearms are able to identify themselves to security and other law enforcement personnel when entering secure properties, or interacting with other law enforcement agencies.

M.G.L. 41 § 98D requires that municipal police departments issue identification cards to every full time officer bearing the officer's photograph and the municipal seal. The statute requires that officers carry the cards on their person, and exhibit them upon lawful request for purposes of identification.

The Medfield Police Department is participating with other Massachusetts police departments in a state-wide program administered by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association to provide identification cards for authorized police officers, both active and retired. The purpose of the project is to provide a secure and standardized identification card that will assure the public and law enforcement officers that the bearer is a legitimate sworn officer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Identification cards issued under this program utilize security features to thwart counterfeiting and tampering. Identification cards issued by this Department are the property of the Department, and shall be surrendered immediately upon demand.

POLICY:

The Medfield Police Department will provide one identification card to every police officer. Officers are required to carry their identification card with them at all times when

on duty, except in unusual circumstances and when properly authorized by the Chief of Police.

The Department will also provide one identification card to every full-time police officer who separates from the Department in good standing after at least ten years of service. Identification documents issued to other employees of the Department will be of a design that is easily distinguishable from those issued to police officers.

PROCEDURES:

The Chief of Police will issue one ID card to every police officer.

Design of Identification Cards

Every ID card will be of the standard design established for police officers by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA), and will bear the following on the front of the card:

1. A banner containing the words "Commonwealth of Massachusetts" and "Police"
2. A full face photograph of the officer;
3. An image of the Department's shoulder emblem;
4. The officer's full name;
5. The officer's rank; and
6. The signature of the Chief of Police.

The back of the card will bear the following:

1. The officer's signature;
2. The officer's date of birth;
3. A sequential serial number; and
4. Instructions that the card should be returned to the Medfield Police Department if it is found after being lost or stolen.

Carrying of Identification Cards

Officers shall carry their ID cards on their person in an easily accessible place while on duty.

Officers who are on duty or conducting police action while off-duty shall display their ID card upon the lawful request of a citizen, except when doing so would be dangerous, or

would compromise a police investigation, such as in the case of an officer acting in an undercover capacity.

Off-duty officers are encouraged to carry their ID card on their person, except in circumstances where they are unable to properly secure it, and shall display it upon the lawful request of a law enforcement officer.

Officers must carry their shield and ID card on their person in an easily accessible place, whether inside Massachusetts or in another state, whenever carrying a firearm.

Officers have been seriously injured or killed during robberies because the subjects robbing them realized that they were robbing a police officer. For this reason, off-duty officers, or officers working in plainclothes should not carry their ID or shield in such a way that it is plainly visible when the officer retrieves cash or a credit card.

Control of Identification Cards

As new officers join the Department, an ID card will be issued to them, typically, upon graduation from the police academy, or when such officers join the Department by other routes, such as so-called "lateral transfers" or hiring from other police agencies.

Due to the likelihood that criminals will use stolen police identification to commit a crime, police officers shall diligently safeguard their shield and ID cards so as to prevent loss or theft.

Officers shall not loan or give their shield or ID cards to any person. They shall, however, surrender the same on demand to a superior officer of the Department.

Officers shall not reproduce, photograph, or post images or copies of their ID on the Internet or elsewhere.

Any officer who loses his shield or ID card, or whose shield or ID card is stolen, shall immediately report the loss or theft to the Shift Commander, who shall;

1. File a written report concerning the loss or theft; and
2. Ensure that the card is entered as a stolen article in LEAPS and NCIC under the article type ICREDEN (The cards are serial numbered). The remarks field of the entry should contain a description of the card.

Lost or stolen cards that are recovered shall be cancelled in LEAPS and NCIC. If a replacement card has been issued, the recovered card shall be destroyed.

Upon return to duty, the officer whose shield or ID card was lost or stolen shall file a full report to the Chief of Police, documenting the events surrounding the loss or theft.

Lost, damaged, or stolen ID cards will be replaced by the Department.

The Department will demand the return of an ID card from any officer whenever the officer:

1. Is suspended;
2. Has been prohibited by the Department from carrying a firearm;
3. Is terminated; or
4. Resigns, transfers, or retires from the Department.

Officers are responsible for applying for a new ID card whenever there is a change in the officer's name or rank.

Department ID cards have expiration dates. Every officer is personally responsible for ensuring he:

1. Obtains a new card prior to the expiration of the existing card; and
2. Returns to the Department the expiring card as soon as the new card is received.

Former Police Officers

Upon the separation from duty of any officer, the Department will issue an ID card identifying the officer as a retired police officer, provided that the officer:

1. Separated in good standing, meaning that such officer was not charged with or suspected of criminal activity at the time of retirement, nor was he or she under investigation, or facing disciplinary action for an ethical violation of departmental rules, or for any act of dishonesty;
2. Before such separation, served as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of ten years or more, or separated from service due to a service-connected disability after completing his or her probationary period;
3. Is not unqualified to be a police officer for reasons relating to mental health; and
4. Is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing a firearm.

ID cards issued to former officers as described above will be of the same design as those issued to active duty officers except that they will bear the word "RETIRED" on the face of the card.

ID cards issued to retired officer remain the property of the Medfield Police Department. Former officers who receive an ID card must sign an agreement stating that they recognize that the card belongs to the Department and agreeing to return it upon demand. The Chief of Police has the authority to demand the return of an ID card at his discretion.