

SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rules of Conduct for Citizen Observers

The following rules shall be strictly followed and adhered to for all citizen observers assigned with Scranton Police Officers. Failure to agree to these rules shall disqualify the citizen from participating in the observation/ride along program.

By initialing alongside each rule and affixing my signature below I agree to abide by the rules and terms of this program:

- _____ 1. The officer will exercise discretion in the extent of involvement of the citizen in all situations. Civilians must obey any and all instructions from the officer without question or delay.
- _____ 2. The officer may decide that the presence of the civilian at a scene is not advisable, in which case the officer will drop off the civilian at a safe location where he/she will return later to resume the observation period.
- _____ 3. No alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances shall be consumed prior to or during the observation period, nor shall any person report to the observation period under the influence of any intoxicating beverages and/or drugs.
- _____ 4. The observer is NOT allowed to carry a firearm or weapon while riding as an observer. This applies to persons licensed to carry a firearm in Pa. as well. Any person found to be in possession of a firearm or illegal weapon during the observation period will have their privileges to participate permanently revoked and may, where applicable, be subjected to criminal charges for the violation of any State weapons laws.
- _____ 5. The observer shall not convey by acts or statements that he/she is a police officer or has the powers and authority of a police officer.
- _____ 6. Observers shall refrain from becoming involved in any physical struggle or verbal arguments with any persons encountered by the officer; however, the observer should render assistance to the officer if commanded to do so.
- _____ 7. The observer is forbidden from becoming involved in any police investigation or from discussing any police investigation with another citizen. **The citizen observer shall not enter the private residence of a citizen on any calls for service.** The observer shall remain outside the residence or in the patrol vehicle until the officer(s) exit the residence. The observer shall not reveal the identity of any person suspected of an offense, nor shall he/she reveal the identity of any victims, witnesses, or persons detained by the police for any reason.
- _____ 8. As a guest of the Scranton Police Department, the observer is expected to be attired and groomed in an appropriate business-casual like manner. A Scranton Police Supervisor has the authority to deny permission for any person to participate in this program if he/she believes the observer's appearance would impugn the respect and authority of the Department.
- _____ 9. All civilian observers must have approval from the Chief of Police or his/her designee prior to riding with any officer.
- _____ 10. All civilian observers shall complete a liability waiver form prior to their observation time and the completed form shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police.
- _____ 11. An observer shall never exit the patrol vehicle on an in-progress call, traffic stop, or at any other time there is a potential threat to their safety. At an officer's discretion they may exit the patrol vehicle on public, non-private/restricted locations, (see 7.) calls for service or other incidents which have no potential for a threat to the observer's safety.
- _____ 12. No cameras, tape recorders, or other audio or video recording devices may be carried or used by the civilian observer without the prior approval of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

I have read and understand the rules of conduct that I must follow as a guest of the Scranton Police Department.

Citizens Signature/ Date

Officers Signature/Date

Printed Name

Officers Name/Badge #

SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ride Along Program Waiver of Liability

Name of Citizen Participant: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ OLN: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Reason For Ride Along: _____

In consideration of the granting of my request to be permitted to participate in the Scranton Police Department ride along program: I do waive all rights and claims and release and exempt the city of Scranton, its members, employees, and agents of the aforementioned agency from any and all claims for injuries, accidents, sickness, death, and damages which may arise by reason of my presence upon the property or in any building or jurisdiction of the SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, or any or all members, employees, or agents of the aforementioned agency where such members are acting in their official capacity or within or without their scope of their employment.

Being at most a licensee, I undertake to assume the risk of all dangerous conditions in or about the properties of the SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT of which dangers I realize can and do exist, and thereby waive notice of the existence of any such dangerous conditions.

I represent that at the reading and signing of this waiver, I am of lawful age and legally competent to execute the same and, before signing it, I have informed myself of its contents, and execute it with full knowledge and understanding thereof.

Citizens Signature/ Date

Officers Signature/Date

Printed Name

Officers Name/Badge #

Ride Along Approval or Denial _____

Approved: { }

Denied: { }

Chief of Police or his/her designee

Date of Approval/Denial: _____