

Oath of Office

102.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that oaths, when appropriate, are administered to department members.

102.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Bozeman Police Department that, when appropriate, department members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Department and the dedication of its members to their duties.

102.3 OATH OF OFFICE

All department members, when appropriate, shall take and subscribe to the oaths or affirmations applicable to their positions (Mont. Const. art. III, § 3; § 2-16-211, MCA; § 7-32-303, MCA; § 7-1-4137, MCA).

The form of the oath should be as follows:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; that I will serve the City of Bozeman honestly and faithfully; and that I will, without partiality or prejudice, discharge the duties of a peace officer to the best of my ability (so help me God)."

If a member is opposed to taking an oath, they shall be permitted to substitute the word "affirm" for the word "swear," and the words "so help me God" may be omitted.

102.3.1 CODE OF ETHICS

Officers shall abide by the public safety officers' code of ethics as specified in ARM 23.13.203.

102.4 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The oath of office shall be filed as prescribed by law (§ 7-4-101, MCA; § 7-1-4137, MCA).