Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department

Orange County SD Policy Manual

Reporting of Member Convictions

1010.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Convictions of certain offenses may restrict or prohibit a Member's ability to properly perform official duties; therefore, all Members shall be required to promptly notify the Department of any past and current criminal convictions.

1010.2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONVICTIONS AND RESTRAINING ORDERS

Pursuant to the Federal Domestic Violence Gun Control Act (18 <u>United States Code</u> §§ 921(a) and 922(d)), any person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense is prohibited from possessing any firearm or ammunition.

Misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence are defined as misdemeanors under federal or state law, having as an element, the use or attempted use of physical force, or the threatened use of a deadly weapon, committed by a current or former spouse, parent or guardian of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, parent or guardian, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent or guardian of the victim.

Federal law also prohibits firearm possession by any individual who is the subject of a domestic violence restraining order. This federal restriction, however, does not apply to Temporary Restraining Orders (18 <u>United States Code</u> § 922(d)(8)).

<u>Penal Code</u> § 12021(c)(1) prohibits any person convicted of certain offenses including, but not limited to <u>Penal Code</u> §§ 273.5, 273.6 and 646.9, from lawfully possessing a firearm.

<u>Family Code</u> § 6389 prohibits any person from carrying a firearm if they are currently the subject of a domestic violence restraining order (including temporary and emergency orders).

1010.3 OTHER CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Government Code § 1029 prohibits any person convicted of a felony from being a peace officer in the State of California. This prohibition applies regardless of whether the guilt was established by way of a verdict, guilty or nolo contendre plea.

Convictions of certain violations of the <u>Vehicle Code</u> and other provisions of law may also place restrictions on a Member's ability to fully perform the duties of the job.

Moreover, while legal restrictions may or may not be imposed by statute or by the courts upon conviction of any criminal offense, criminal conduct by Members of this Department may be inherently in conflict with law enforcement duties and the public trust.

1010.4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

All Members of this Department and all retired deputies with a CCW endorsement shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor (or the Sheriff in the case of retired deputies) in writing of any

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past or current criminal arrest or conviction regardless of whether or not the matter is currently on appeal and regardless of the penalty or sentence, if any.

All sworn Members and all retired deputies with a CCW endorsement shall further promptly notify their immediate supervisor (or the Sheriff in the case of retired deputies) in writing if the Member becomes the subject of a domestic violence restraining order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Any Member whose criminal conviction unduly restricts or prohibits that Member from fully and properly performing his/her duties may be disciplined including, but not limited to being placed on administrative leave, reassignment, and/or termination.

Any Member failing to provide prompt written notice pursuant to this policy shall be subject to discipline.

1010.5 PROCEDURE FOR RELIEF

Pursuant to Penal Code § 29855, a peace officer may petition the court for permission to carry a firearm following a conviction under state law. Federal law, however, does not provide for any such similar judicial relief and the granting of a state court petition under Penal Code § 29855 will not relieve one of the restrictions imposed by federal law. Therefore, relief for any Member falling under the restrictions imposed by federal law may only be obtained by expungement of the conviction. Each Member shall seek relief from firearm restrictions on their own time and through their own resources.

Pursuant to Family Code § 6389(h), an individual may petition the court for an exemption to any restraining order, which would thereafter permit the individual to carry a firearm as a part of their employment. Relief from any domestic violence or other restriction shall also be pursued through the Member's own resources and on the Member's own time.

Pending satisfactory proof of relief from any legal restriction imposed on an Member's duties, the Member may be placed on administrative leave, reassigned or disciplined. The Department may, but is not required to return an Member to any assignment, reinstate any Member, or reverse any pending or imposed discipline upon presentation of satisfactory proof of relief from any legal restriction set forth in this policy.

1010.6 ESTABLISHING ELEMENTS OF A VIOLATION OF LAW

The existence of facts establishing a violation of the law or ordinance is all that is necessary to support any allegation. When a violation of law occurs, the lack of criminal prosecution shall be no bar to administrative discipline.