



Volume Three – Work Rules and Benefits

Health, Wellness, and Safety

3-502 Member Medical Information, Injury, and Incident Response (11/01/11) (06/10/26)

I. Purpose

This policy sets forth procedures to define how MPD ensures privacy of medical information and member health and safety while navigating the physical and emotional impacts of the job.

II. Policy

It is the policy of MPD to build trust with members by handling sensitive information appropriately and complying with all applicable state and federal laws and City of Minneapolis policies regarding member injury, illness, and leaves of absence.

III. Medical Information

A. Privacy and Disclosure of Member Information

Each member's health and wellness information, including medical, mental health, wellness, and other reasonably assumed confidential information is categorized as private data on individuals, is not public data, and is protected from unauthorized disclosure under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, MN Statutes section 13.02.

Members shall protect non-public data, as required by law.

1. Medical Information

- a. Medical information shall be shared only with MPD supervisors who have a need to know.
- b. Health records and medical information shall be kept private and shared only within the necessary chain of command, and the Health and Safety Coordinator (HSC), when pertinent to job performance.
- c. Documented permission must be obtained from the affected member, or their designee, prior to disclosure, outside those with a need to know.
 - i. Members shall not share confidential or private information about another member's medical event, treatment, status, or condition via e-mail, squad computer, radio, or in-person, unless authorized.

- ii. General information about an injury or illness that is directly related to a member's official job duties may be shared on a need to know basis. However, no additional or unnecessary details about the specific condition, treatment, or prognosis may be disclosed.
 - aa. Examples of information that may be shared to those with a need to know:
 - A member is on light duty due to a work-related injury.
 - A member will be out for two weeks following a medical procedure.
 - The member was transported to the hospital following an on-duty incident.
 - ab. Examples of information that require documented permission to share, unless it is pertinent to required paperwork or duty determinations.
 - Specific diagnosis (PTSD, cancer, surgery type).
 - Treatment details (medications, physical therapy sessions).
 - Personal or family medical history.
 - Non-duty related medical information.
- d. All member medical documentation shall be held only in the member's medical file and maintained by the HSC.
- e. Medical-related documentation provided to supervisory personnel shall immediately be forwarded to the HSC.
 - i. No member medical documentation shall remain in station/unit files.
 - ii. If medical documentation is digitally forwarded, source documentation must be sent to the HSC, returned to the member, or destroyed.

2. Mental Health Information

- a. All mental health professionals must adhere to mandated reporting requirements and shall advise those seeking services of any limitations to confidentiality and clinical information prior to the start of counseling. Limitations include:
 - Reasonable suspicion of minor or vulnerable adult abuse.
 - A clear and substantial risk of imminent, serious physical injury or death to self or others.
 - When a member requests, in writing, that their information be released.
- b. No identifying information shall be shared with MPD related to accessing counseling services. All members who seek counseling shall receive a confidentiality form with their rights to privacy.

- i. This does not prohibit MPD from receiving aggregate data about counseling, such as total number of visits, that does not identify individual members.
- c. To best assist members seeking health and wellness services, the HWU may need to consult with other MPD members to facilitate the most appropriate support. When consultation outside of the HWU is necessary, the HWU shall ensure a minimal amount of personally identifiable information is shared. Written consent shall be obtained prior to sharing identifiable information outside the HWU.
- d. Clinical documentation, including counseling notes, shall be managed by the mental health professional, their agency's policies, and applicable regulations.
 - i. To maintain and build trust with MPD members seeking counseling, no clinical documentation shall be shared with the HWU unless written consent is gained directly from the member, or pursuant to the limitations to confidentiality.

3. Leaves

- a. Any request for leave shall be treated as private and in accordance with MPD and City policy and labor agreements. All members who are aware of a leave request shall not share related information unless required to facilitate the leave's approval or use.
- b. A member may be required to submit multiple copies of the same paperwork to facilitate a leave.
- c. Any other health or medical related notification/documentation not described in this policy, (such as those for Family Medical Leave or Worker's Compensation) are independent processes and will not necessarily fulfill the notification requirements listed below.

4. Member Protections

- a. Retaliation of any kind, across all ranks, is prohibited against members who seek any support services or resources.
- b. Anyone who obtains knowledge of, or access to, member information listed in this policy shall adhere to privacy requirements in perpetuity. Violations may result in discipline.
- c. A member has the right to a Federation representative being present in all meetings.

B. Medical Notifications

The HSC and the affected member's Inspector or Commander shall be notified in the following circumstances:

- 1. Member hospitalizations.

- a. Includes any inpatient admission to a hospital, chemical dependency, or mental health facility, voluntary or otherwise.
 - b. The affected member or the member's designee shall notify the member's supervisor as soon as possible.
 - c. The supervisor shall immediately notify the MPD HSC, the Chief, and the affected member's Inspector or Commander and provide the following information:
 - i. Affected member's name, badge number, and assignment.
 - ii. Affected member or the member designee's contact information to discuss any applicable or necessary forms, work status, retrieval of city-owned equipment and firearm collection, etc.
 - iii. Anticipated length of incapacitation from normal job duties.
2. If a member is unable to perform their essential job functions due to a medical condition:
 - a. The affected member shall notify their immediate supervisor prior to returning to work.
 - b. The affected member's supervisor shall notify the MPD HSC and, if necessary, other supervisors in the affected member's chain of command.
 - c. Via the Report of Work Ability form, the member's condition shall be provided to the HSC and made available to the member's supervisor, as necessary.
3. A supervisor has reason to believe a member has a medical condition that may adversely affect the member's work performance or prevent the member from performing their essential job functions.

IV. Incident and Event Responses

The City shall offer to all MPD members clinically appropriate and readily accessible mental health services before returning to full duty following a traumatic event or critical incident.

MPD shall require that these services be mandatory for an officer when:

- Directed by the Chief.
- Required by the Federation labor agreement.
- and/or Pursuant to P&P 7-810.

A. Critical Incident Wellness Response

In order to support MPD members through critical incidents, the HWU will activate the comprehensive response plan for each critical incident. The plan focuses on providing care for the member's wellbeing, primarily through mental health support.

1. Involved Members and Witness Members
 - a. Pursuant to P&P 7-810, immediately following notification of a critical incident, staff from HWU shall coordinate the wellness response to provide support to involved members and witness members.
 - b. Within 24 hours, an HWU member shall contact all witness and involved members included in the critical incident to do a general check-in, offer personal mental health resources, and to share the return to duty process.
 - c. Within 48-72 hours, an HWU member shall contact each involved and witness members to assist with the equipment and/or uniform replacement process.
 - d. Within 72 hours, if practicable, but not to exceed 7 days, a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) facilitator shall provide a critical incident stress debriefing to involved and witness members who would like to participate.
2. Affected members may receive separate debriefing sessions after a critical incident, coordinated by the HWU.

B. Traumatic Incident Wellness Response

MPD understands that in the line of duty, members are exposed to extreme circumstances, including trauma. The events on this spectrum may affect each member differently. In some cases, it may be profound and pose a risk to the member or community for the affected member(s) to stay on duty.

1. In cases where a traumatic incident causes significant disruption to the affected member's wellbeing, the HWU shall activate the Traumatic Incident Response Plan.
2. It shall be the responsibility of an affected member, all supervisors, and peers who become aware of a member affected by a traumatic incident to notify the HWU.
 - a. A traumatic incident or event may be determined by the affected member or a supervisor and documented with the HSC.
 - b. A supervisor shall grant an administrative leave of up to one workday.
 - c. The Chief, or the Chief's designee, may grant an administrative leave greater than one workday if requested, upon consultation with the HWU and affected member.

V. Injuries and Illnesses**A. Work-Related Injuries**

Members injured while at work may be eligible for Worker's Compensation benefits. Sworn members may also be eligible for Injured on Duty (IOD) benefits.

1. Members may be responsible for medical expenses incurred if Worker's Compensation procedures are not followed and/or Workers Compensation does not accept the claim.
2. An MPD member injured while at work shall:
 - a. Seek a medical examination, if appropriate.
 - i. The member may be seen by the MPD healthcare provider or their own healthcare provider.
 - ii. In an emergency, the member should seek medical treatment at the nearest medical facility.
 - b. Complete an injury report through the online Event Reporting System.
 - c. Comply with the Checklist for Work-Related Injury.
 - d. Provide a Report of Work Ability form, completed by a physician/healthcare provider, to their supervisor, Inspector or Commander, and the HSC.
 - e. As work restrictions change or expire, members shall provide updated Report of Work Ability forms, completed by a physician/healthcare provider, to their supervisor, Inspector or Commander, and HSC until the member is cleared to return to work with no restrictions.
3. Supervisor responsibility:
 - a. Ensure an injury report has been filed and reviewed, once received.
 - i. If the injured member is unable to complete the injury report, the supervisor shall complete it.
 - b. Comply with the Checklist for Work-Related Injury.
 - c. Immediately forward all medical documentation received to the HSC.
4. HSC Responsibility:
 - a. Make any IOD determinations (supervisors cannot make an IOD determination).
 - b. Document the injured member's election of IOD benefits at the time of injury.

- c. Enter the member's hours as IOD in the time keeping system.
- d. Ensure compliance with all checklists, reports, and physician orders.

VI. Requirements for Returning to Work

A. Return to Duty Program

1. When a member is on limited duty for longer than 60 days, they shall work with the Training Unit to determine what training or evaluation shall occur, prior to returning to full duty.
2. Members shall meet with an HWU staff member to receive general wellness support. The HWU member will provide support services, referrals, and resources as requested by the member.

B. After Injury/Illness

1. Prior to returning to work on full or limited duty, members may be referred to MPD's healthcare provider by the HSC.
2. A referral may be made to MPD's healthcare provider in the following circumstances:
 - a. The member has had any major illness or injury or major surgery.
 - b. The member has been off-duty due to illness or injury for thirty calendar days or more.
 - c. The member has been away from work, even for one day, for any diagnosed cardiac condition.
 - d. The member has been away from work for any bone fracture, joint injury, back injury, or concussion related symptoms.
 - e. The member has been placed on restrictions for more than seven calendar days by their personal healthcare provider.
3. The HSC may direct members returning to work after an absence caused by one or more of the circumstances outlined above, to have a Report of Work Ability completed by their physician in addition to, or in lieu of, a referral to MPD's healthcare provider.
4. The affected member shall not be allowed to return to work unless approved by their Inspector or Commander, and the HSC, after a review of any necessary medical documentation has been completed.

C. Limited Duty

A member with work restrictions, verified by a physician, may be reassigned temporarily to a limited duty assignment.

1. Determining Limited Duty Assignments

- a. In coordination with the HSC, the Precinct Inspectors or Division Commanders, shall be responsible for identifying a limited duty work assignment that meets the affected member's work restriction, respective to their precinct of unit operations.
- b. If an assignment that meets the member's work restrictions cannot be identified, contact the HSC for additional assistance.

2. Member responsibility when requesting a limited duty assignment:

- a. Notify their immediate supervisor, Inspector, or Commander, and the HSC prior to returning to work.
- b. Provide all forms and statements necessary to substantiate work limitations/restrictions to their supervisor, Inspector or Commander, and the HSC.
- c. Provide Report of Work Ability forms requested by the supervisor and HSC.
- d. During the period of the temporary reassignment, the affected member is expected to perform the duties of the limited duty assignment; and
- e. Sworn members working a limited duty assignment shall not work off-duty employment. (See P&P 3-801, Off-Duty Employment.)

3. Supervisor responsibility related to limited duty members:

- a. Ensure the affected member does not work outside their limited duty restrictions or engage in any off-duty employment, pursuant to restrictions in P&P 3-801.
- b. All medical or mental health related limited duty assignments must be reviewed by the HSC and approved by the affected member's Inspector or Commander.
- c. Forward all medical documentation received to the HSC and the member's Inspector or Commander.

4. The HSC will coordinate with the MPD healthcare provider, the appropriate supervisors and worker's compensation to monitor limited duty personnel and ensure work restrictions indicated by the healthcare provider are met.

5. Work restrictions as the result of a non-work-related injury may be reassigned temporarily to a limited duty assignment.

- a. If the affected member is not ready to return to full duty without restrictions within a reasonable timeframe, as determined in coordination with the affected member and command staff, MPD may terminate the limited duty assignment and offer the member a medical layoff.
6. A member that is working outside of the scope of the modified work assignment may be subject to discipline.

D. Medications and Supplements

Each member is responsible for reporting to work capable of performing the essential duties of their job.

1. Medications

- a. A member who is taking prescription and/or over-the-counter medication(s), which they have been informed, or are otherwise aware, have side effects with the potential to impair job performance or affect their ability to fully and safely perform all the requirements of their job duties, shall notify their supervisor, Inspector or Commander, and the HSC, in writing prior to the beginning of their next assigned shift.
- b. The notification shall contain the known side effects and the intended period of use.
 - i. If a question exists regarding a member's ability to safely and effectively perform their essential job functions while using such medications, clearance to work from a qualified physician may be required.
 - ii. The supervisor shall contact the HSC for assistance in determining any duty restrictions and identifying the appropriate alternate duty for the member.
- c. The member may be temporarily reassigned, if needed.

2. Performance Enhancing Substances

- a. MPD officers using any type of performance enhancing steroid, without a legal prescription, shall report such use to the HSC. The officer shall have a fitness for duty evaluation in accordance with the Federation labor agreement.
3. If MPD determines that a member failed to make the appropriate notifications regarding medication or substance use, disciplinary action may be taken.

Glossary

Affected Member: A member who has experienced or been impacted by a critical incident, traumatic event or other work-related stressor.

Mental Health Professional: Licensed mental health professionals employed, directly or by contract, by the City or MPD to provide mental or behavioral health services to members.

Member’s Designee: The person acting as a liaison between the MPD and the affected or involved member.

Need to know: When a person’s official duties require them to have access to sensitive, private, personal, and/or confidential information.

Essential Job Functions: The fundamental duties of a position.

Fitness for Duty Evaluation: Department-ordered examination to evaluate whether a member is able to perform the essential job functions.

First Amendment Event: Any gathering at which individuals are engaging in activity protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. These include, but are not limited to, marches, protests, and other assemblies, whether scheduled or spontaneous.

Identifying Information: Includes the person’s name, address, date of birth, gender, parent's or guardian's name regardless of the age of the person, and other nonclinical data which can be used to uniquely identify a person (MN Statutes section 144.291).

Involved Member: A member who appears to have engaged in conduct constituting a critical incident.

LGBTQ+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, with the plus sign (+) acknowledging the full spectrum of sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions, including but not limited to intersex, asexual, nonbinary, and Two-Spirit individuals.

Limited Duty: A temporary work assignment as the result of the affected member not being able to perform their essential job functions, according to a health care provider. Also known as “light duty.”

Medical Event or Treatment: Any physical care, treatment, or diagnosis, beyond first aid, a member may receive, or any mental health care or treatment.

Medical Information: Medical Data collected because an individual was or is a patient or client of a hospital, nursing home, medical center, clinic, health or nursing agency including business and financial records, data provided by private health care facilities, and data provided by or about relatives of the individual (MN Statutes section 13.384).

Health Record: Any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of a member (MN Statutes section 144.291 Subd. 2(c)).

MPD Healthcare Provider: The occupational medicine clinic selected by the MPD (City doctor).

Not Public Data: Any government data classified by statute, federal law, or temporary classification as confidential, private, nonpublic, or protected nonpublic. (Mn. State Statute 13.02 Subd. 8a).

Confidential data on individuals: Data made not public by statute or federal law applicable to the data and are inaccessible to the individual subject of those data (MN Statutes 13.02 subd. 3).

Private data on individuals: Data made by statute or federal law applicable to the data: (a) not public; and (b) accessible to the individual subject of those data. (MN Statutes section 13.02 Subd. 12).

Return to Duty Program: A support-based process managed by the Training Unit, in which a sworn member is required to meet all necessary steps as recommended by multiple MPD entities to return to serving the City in a fully competent, capable, and ethical manner.

Trauma: An emotional response that results from exposure to an incident or series of events that are frightening, distressing, or life threatening with lasting effects on a person's or community's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional and/or spiritual well-being.

Traumatic Incident: A single event, or series of events that may have a significant psychological and emotional impact on the mental health and well-being of a person, potentially leading to conditions such as posttraumatic stress (PTS), depression, anxiety, and/or substance misuse. Examples of traumatic incidents related to police work include, but are not limited to:

- A member being assaulted or seriously injured in the line-of-duty.
- Unsuccessful attempts at lifesaving efforts (CPR, suicides, fires, etc.)
- Observing violent acts of assault on a person.
- Exposure to victims with serious, life-threatening injuries or death.
- Exposure to a child, elderly, or vulnerable adult victim(s) of abuse, neglect, or violence.
- Members negatively impacted by a First Amendment event or civil disturbance.

Witness Member: A sworn member who has physically witnessed a critical incident, but did not engage in any conduct constituting a critical incident.

Worker's Compensation: Benefits for medical care and lost time prescribed by state law for members who are injured while on the job. Submission of a Supervisor's Report of Injury form is required for work-related injuries as directed by State law and MPD policy. NOTE: Worker's Compensation is separate from the Injured on Duty (IOD) program (refer to POFM labor agreement).