



COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING AND RECRUIT/LATERAL TRAINING



KLC Insurance Services has had several calls regarding police officers riding together in the same car with regard to the social distancing rules from Governor Beshear in response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

From a practical standpoint, first responders are exempt from the 6-foot rule as many of their necessary functions require them to be within six feet of citizens and other officers.

However, we have had phone calls regarding new recruits, retired rehires and laterals and conducting field training, or more specifically, riding in a patrol car together.

If you can avoid two officers from riding in the same car, do so.

From a field training perspective, KLC law enforcement views this as a critical step in the training of a police officer. Here are some recommendations:

New Recruits

1. If at all possible, new recruits should not ride in a car with a field trainer. This constant contact will increase the potential for both of them being exposed to coronavirus.
2. If the department can delay this step, officers in their field training phase could be utilized to answer phones and take reports over the phone. Delay this phase as long as possible.
3. If delaying the field training process is not an option, officers could drive separate cars and limit as much direct contact together as possible. Making runs together but not patrolling in the same car. This would limit the constant contact in a car, but still allow for direct supervision by the training officer.

4. If this is not possible, both officers should use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as mask and gloves during their shift in an attempt to lower exposure.
5. Departments nationally are taking steps to limit their members that are more susceptible to the virus. Specifically, those that are male, older and have underlying health conditions (or pregnant). We would recommend that officers that are at a high risk not be field training officers during this time. This would limit the most vulnerable from direct contact with another officer, thus reducing their exposure.
6. Although we strongly recommend field training as the best practice there is no legal requirement for this phase of training.

Lateral and or Retired Rehires

It is a best practice to provide some shortened version of field training to any new officer as a familiarity to the agency and for those that have been retired for a while as an update on the latest practices.

However, in this unprecedented time, the potential for exposure to COVID-19 is not worth the risk for the exposure of this training. We think that the best practice would be to do any familiarity/update training for already certified officers be limited to Facetime or another online training platform. Again, the goal is to limit officers' exposure to one another as much as possible.

Once again, we are in unprecedented times and although we feel field training is critical, it is not worth the risk of heightend exposure during this time. If you have any questions, please contact KLC Insurance Services Law Enforcement.



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