



Peace Officer Standards and Training Integrity Bulletin



Ada County deputies rescue woman from icy pond

Author: KTVB Staff

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BOISE, Idaho — Ada County deputies rescued a woman from icy waters after her vehicle crashed into a pond near Eagle Road, early Sunday morning.

The Ada County Sheriff's Office says Deputy **Dylan Sklar** saw the woman hit a berm on the north side of Pine, and lose control of her vehicle, around 6:00 a.m.

The women's SUV went over the curb and spun onto the ice-covered pond. The ice began to crack as the vehicle slowly started sinking, Sklar said. Sklar called for backup. Deputy **Sean Dalrymple** was nearby and arrived just after the call went out. The two men took their belts and gear off, jumped into the ice-cold water, and swam over to the women's submerged car.

"Once they arrived, they were able to get the woman out of the SUV," the sheriff's office said. "They had to pull her out of the window. They also quickly figured out she was alone. So they each hooked on to the woman and swam her back to shore."

At that point, paramedics arrived and took over care of the 51-year-old woman. The woman appeared to be in shock from the collision and extreme cold, but didn't appear to have life-threatening injuries, according to Ada County police.

The temperature was only at 23 degrees at the time of the rescue.



"But it didn't stop Sklar and Dalrymple from jumping in and saving that woman's life," the sheriff's office continued in the post. "Just some excellent work.

Well done, deputies!

OPR Manager's Note

The POST Integrity Bulletin looks at the self-imposed circumstances in which our POST certified professionals find themselves.

What causes, otherwise reasoned, rational and professional law enforcement officers, to do the stupid things they sometimes do?

Our continuing efforts to study acts of misconduct and find a solution, have met with less than positive results.

We hope the information herein will bring attention on our profession's ability to deter official misconduct, improve the public perception of Idaho's law enforcement officers, and promote responsible, ethical discourse within your agency or department.



Case Studies



RULES ARE WRONG LEGAL STUFFS

IDAPA

11.11.01.057.07...Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret...

IDAPA 11.11.01.110.02

- c. Criminal conduct whether charged or not;
- i. Unauthorized use or unlawful conversion of the employing agency's property, equipment, or funds;

2

INSIDE STORY

The following incidents (we say "incidents" instead of "stories" because if they were not real, you may think they are just that, "stories") are provided for your benefit and "enlightenment". You've heard the saying, "You can't make this stuff up." Well, we either say, or hear it said, on a daily basis.

These incidents were NOT ultimately entertaining for the officer experiencing the consequences that followed, but by sharing them with you, we hope to let you learn from the mistakes of others. If you can not do that, then maybe someday, you too will be prominently featured here in the Integrity Bulletin...Don't worry we will keep the names and agencies out of the story to protect (if possible) what's left of your reputation.

"The rules are wrong."

Corrections Officer, Juliette Romano resigned after her improper relationship with an inmate was discovered:

Romano allowed inmate janitor, Goodwin access to her work email and allowed him to read the CO shift bid results as she scrolled through them. He watched and listened to videos and classical music.

Goodwin and Romano were making plans to be together and have children after his release. They shared everything about their personal lives. After initially denying she even knew Goodwin, Romano finally admitted her love for him and their plans to continue their relationship.

Goodwin and other inmate janitors, were let out all night to perform their duties under Romano's watch. He did so to spend time with her.

Romano left fresh fruit, cookies, chips, and hamburgers for Goodwin in the trash bins he emptied, because "he deserves it".

Romano did not see Goodwin as a criminal and felt he should not be in prison for statutory rape. Romano may have "leaned against him" but of course she never touched him with her hands.

Romano believes a person should **follow their instincts and not the rules**. She knew the rules and felt they did not apply to this situation. "**The rules are wrong.**" Romano did not feel compromised and did not believe she did anything wrong.

Romano submitted an email resignation and then relinquished her certifications.

DECERTIFIED



LITTLE MS. SASSY PANTS

"If an inmate is upset, the first thing we do is standard operating procedure which was to shut the door and let them cool down,"

"In this case, he chose not to do that."

Sgt. Pouncy was asked to assist two other deputies with an unruly and sassy female inmate in the booking cell.

Little Ms. Sassy Pants was screaming that the deputies had hurt her wrist during their escort of her to the booking cell. Sgt. Pouncy entered the cell and attempted to speak with her, but she wanted nothing to do with him and walked past Pouncy to the intercom in the cell and pushed the button. Pouncy grabbed her and **violently pushed her to the back wall** causing her to hit her back and head. She fell to the ground. Another deputy entered the cell and placed her in handcuffs.

An internal investigation determined Pouncy violated the Department's Use of Force policy, and the Idaho Office of the Attorney General conducted a separate criminal investigation. They learned Pouncy showed the video of the incident to several jailers stating, **"you need to do that from time to time to get them to shut up."** "This is something he did several times over the following weeks, showing people this video -- he thought it was funny."

But that's not what Pouncy told investigators. He said, [Ms. Sassy pants] was refusing to follow his commands and to get her to sit down, he felt it was necessary to "assist her in sitting down." He noted the reason [she] "flew back so far" was because he was trying to catch his balance and when he started going forward, he ended up "losing his balance...."

Pouncy was charged with Misdemeanor Battery and ultimately entered a plea of guilty to a reduced charge of Disturbing the Peace. He was sentenced to a Withheld Judgment, one year of unsupervised probation and five days in jail or in the alternative 100 hours of community service.

Pouncy declined to participate with POST's investigation and was **decertified**.



Sassy Pants

LEGAL STUFFS

IDAPA 11.11.01.057:

Para II & IV ...and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. ...obeying the law...recognize the badge...as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust...

11.11.01.110.02:

a. Conviction of any Misdemeanor

l. Failure to Respond



Potentially Possible Maybes

THAT'S POSSIBLE:

LEGAL STUFFS

IDAPA 11.11.01.057.07

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or my agency.

...I know that I am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance my level of knowledge and competence.

IDAPA 11.11.01.110.02:

b. A violation of the Council's Code of Ethics;

f. Lying or falsifying official written or verbal communications;

l. Failure to respond or to respond truthfully to questions related to an investigation or legal proceeding.

The Deputy Warden of Operations issued a memo to all security staff, which delineated the requirements for completion of a new Unit Check Sheet.

Officer Dwayne Hafast was assigned as housing officer in Unit 1 from 1400 to 2200. From 1400 to 1630 he had two trainees assigned to him. Between 1409 and 1549, Hafast documented in the logbook that he had completed four-unit checks at 1409, 1426, 1515, and 1549. He did a quick "**partial**" check at 1409 and then made a logbook entry at 1406 (*what the heck?*) that the recreation yard was secure, and he was beginning a unit check.

When asked by his Lieutenant if he did any unit checks at the times logged, Hafast responded, "**Yes, we wandered around...I believe I did, I believe I did, yes.**"

Hafast also admitted that sometimes he did his unit checks by **just looking up from his desk**. When the Lieutenant asked, "Did you falsify your logs, yes or no?" Hafast's response was, "*It's possible, yes, I could have, possibly.*" When the Lieutenant indicated that he (Hafast) lied about physically making tier checks, because he in fact, did not get up and "**wander**" around as he claimed in his response, Hafast replied, "**That's possible.**" When asked if that was a yes or no, Hafast stated, "**That's possible.**"

Hafast agreed with the POST OPR investigator that the allegations were true and signed a certification relinquishment.

DECERTIFIED



IN THE NEWS

Associated Press

Sheriff pleads guilty to rendering criminal assistance

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A former Lincoln County Washington Sheriff, Wade Magers pleaded guilty to charges relating to his role in trying to cover up his son's alleged drunk driving crash. He was sentenced to 40 hours of community service.

Magers' son was involved in a vehicle rollover crash west of Spokane in Creston, Washington, at about 10 p.m. on Feb. 11, 2021. Magers contacted his brother to pick him up and told his girlfriend he was going to his parent's house. Magers' son's girlfriend and a friend drove to the house. Several hours later, Magers' son called Lincoln County dispatch to report the crash. He told dispatch that he swerved to miss a deer and ran off the road.

Deputies went to the scene of the crash early on Feb. 12. A deputy noticed the tire marks and path of the car were not consistent with a swerving vehicle. At 2:30 a.m., deputies called Magers to see if he knew where his son was. Magers told deputies he believed his son went to a hospital to seek treatment.

The deputy tried to contact Magers' son that day but wasn't able to reach him until Feb. 13. During their conversation, Magers' son admitted that he didn't swerve to avoid hitting a deer but was reaching for his phone when he drove off the road. He said he was speeding but denied using drugs or alcohol, resulting in him getting a citation for speeding.

Magers' son's girlfriend contacted the sheriff's office that day with accusations that Magers told his son to tell police that he swerved to [miss] a deer and that Magers and his wife refused to let their son seek medical attention until his blood alcohol content was zero. [S]he believed Magers' son might have had internal injuries from the crash that he was prevented from getting checked out.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office a few days later was requested to conduct an investigation into the girlfriend's allegations. A detective interviewed Magers' son, his girlfriend and another friend.

The deputy later contacted Magers to ask if he would provide a statement regarding the incident, which he declined to do. The deputy concluded Magers could potentially be charged with obstructing a law enforcement officer, making a false or misleading statement to a public servant and third-degree rendering criminal assistance.

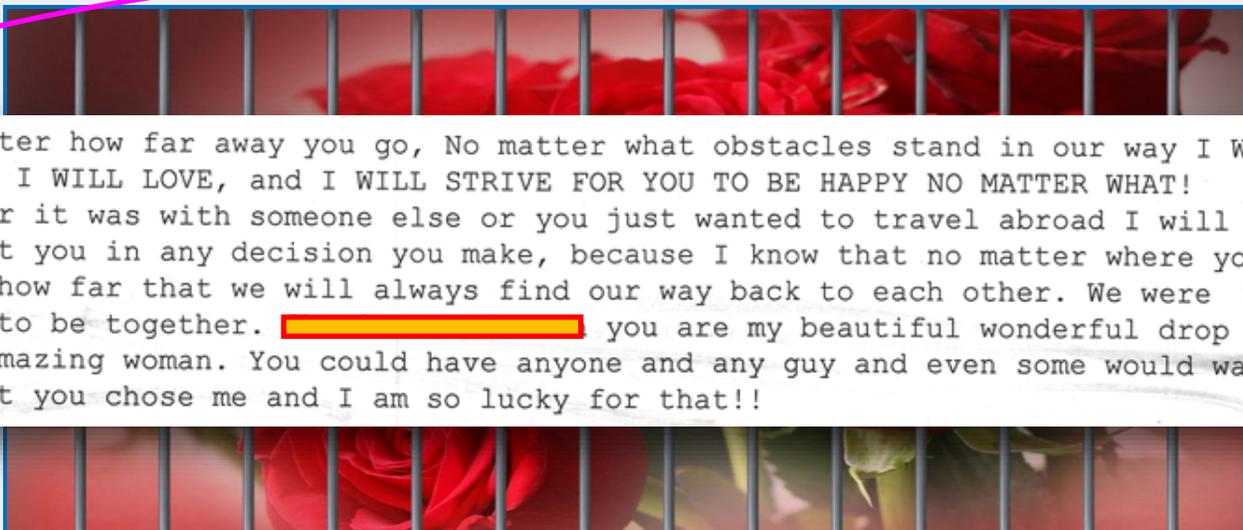


In April 2021, Magers' son told deputies that his injuries from the crash included broken ribs, a compression fracture in his back, a pinhole puncture in his lung and bruising. Magers' son told deputies that he was not honest about the cause of the crash because he worried about his and his father's jobs. He also said he consumed at least eight 16-ounce beers before driving before the crash.

Magers' son also said his parents asked him if he wanted to go to the hospital but did not go out of their way to get him there. The day after the crash, Magers asked his son again if he wanted to go to the hospital and he said yes.

Magers retired from his sheriff position in June. He began his career with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office when he was hired as a patrol deputy in 1990.

POETICALLY BEAUTIFUL



No matter how far away you go, No matter what obstacles stand in our way I WILL FIGHT, I WILL LOVE, and I WILL STRIVE FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT! Whether it was with someone else or you just wanted to travel abroad I will support you in any decision you make, because I know that no matter where you go or how far that we will always find our way back to each other. We were meant to be together. [REDACTED] you are my beautiful wonderful drop dead amazing woman. You could have anyone and any guy and even some would want you but you chose me and I am so lucky for that!!

Sergeant, Jasmine Cotcha noticed deputy William Wordsworth was on the jail control room phone excessively which was causing disruptions. Cotcha investigated the matter and reviewed a video in which she heard Wordsworth saying, "Hey good looking" and "I want to take you to Vegas." Wordsworth was on the phone for almost 4 hours at a time. Cotcha later saw an email from Wordsworth to Tiffany Jailbreak, a bail bond employee and former inmate. The email said, "That's all I have to do for a massage?"

When the internal affairs investigator asked Wordsworth about his relationship with Jailbreak, he said they had just become friends in the last two weeks. When reminded of the phone recordings and 4-7 hour long sexually explicit email strings the investigators had (above), Wordsworth all the sudden remembered their "friendship" might have begun a little longer than two weeks prior.

During his POST interview, Wordsworth admitted he met Jailbreak at work as she was a bail bondsman. Jailbreak asked to meet him for coffee via Facebook while he was on duty, and he met her just after 6:00 am when he got off from his shift. He felt being "friends" and "having a relationship" were different things and didn't think it was a violation of policy to just be friends with a person who was on misdemeanor probation. He thought that it applied only to felony probation and parole.

If that were the case Mr. Wordsworth, why did you tell her "...we could not date due to her probation until after she had been all done and successfully completed her probation." He differentiated between a friendship and a relationship, despite his early morning breakfasts and dinners at Jailbreak's (that he failed to mention).

POETIC

LEGAL STUFFS

IDAPA 11.11.01.057.07

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or my agency. ...I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department.

IDAPA 11.11.01.110.02:

h. An inappropriate relationship, sexual or otherwise, with a person who the officer knows or should have known is a victim, witness, defendant, or informant in an ongoing investigation or adjudication;

i. Unauthorized use or unlawful conversion of the employing agency's property, equipment...



Newsweek

54 Current or Former California Highway Patrol Cops Charged in Fraud Scheme

Erin Brady - © Patrick T, Fallon/AFP/Getty Images

The California attorney general has announced charges against 54 individuals in connection to

an alleged scheme in which California Highway Patrol officers have been accused of inflating their overtime hours.

Out of the 54 former and current officers charged on February 17, 11 of them currently worked at the CHP. According to the Los Angeles Times, those 11 have been put on administrative leave as the investigation into the charges continues. The total amount of overtime allegedly stolen throughout the scheme was \$226,556.

"Trust is a critical part of successful law enforcement. These defendants disregarded the law through their alleged actions and did so without thought of how their conduct would impact the California Highway Patrol or the community that trusted them to protect and serve," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. "I'm thankful to CHP for its thorough investigation and for working with DOJ to hold these officers accountable."

According to the East L.A. office's website, the division is comprised of "two lieutenants, 10 sergeants, 79 officers, and 16 non-uniformed personnel with a spectrum of duties from clerical to fleet maintenance." With 11 of these officers currently facing charges, only 68 officers remain.

"The CHP uncovered the overtime fraud in the East Los Angeles area several years ago during an internal examination," wrote the CHP in a statement.

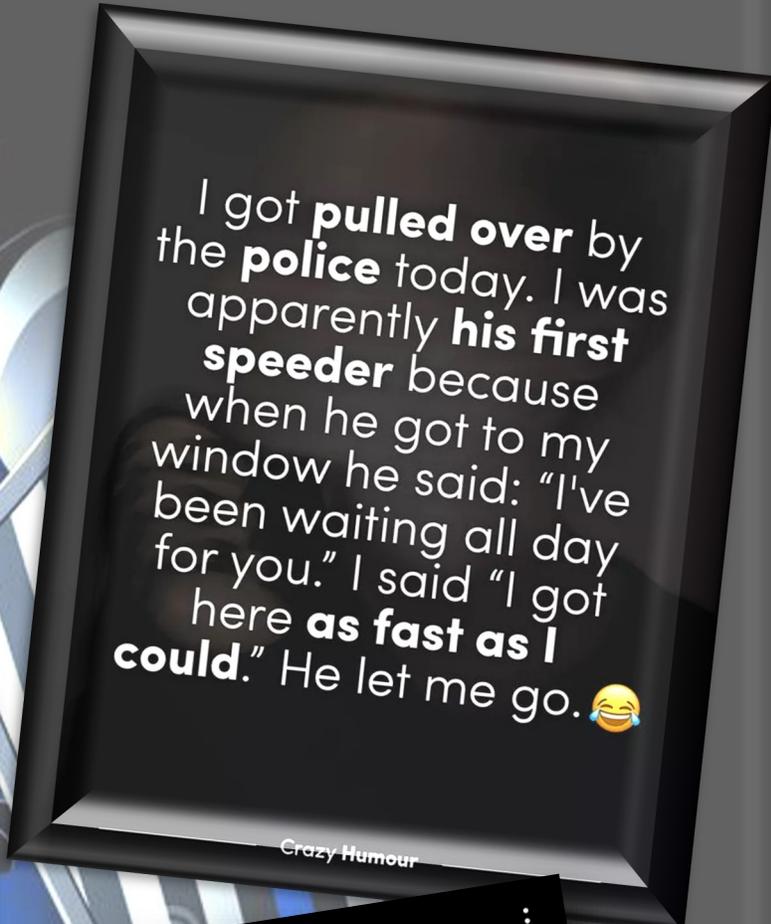
The investigation into potential fraud began in May 2018, with the investigation itself covering January 1, 2016, to March 31, 2018, according to the Times. Officers charged in the case are accused of inflating their overtime hours when working with the California Department of Transportation to protect construction workers. Bonta explained this further in his statement.

"For instance, rather than recording the three to four hours actually worked at a detail, an officer would allegedly record and receive pay for eight hours of overtime," he explained. However, many of the officers accused of being involved in the scheme are maintaining their innocence. According to former Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, the charges being filed against the officers are a big mistake, and Bonta has no idea what he is doing.

"He [Bonta] is being poorly represented by deputy attorney generals assigned to the case," Cooley was quoted by the Times. "He will discover sooner or later [that] the California Highway Patrol's conduct is unacceptable, they are selectively prosecuting and terminating from one station all because of a legitimate labor grievance and that this is retaliation of biblical proportions."



IS SOCIAL MEDIA GOOD
OR IS IT BAD?



What so different between you and me?
You put on a suit to go to work, we strap on a ballistic vest. There's little room for error in your job, in ours there is NONE.
An error by you means a demotion; an error by us means a FUNERAL.
At your job you strive to succeed, at our job we strive to SURVIVE.



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BACK PAGE INFORMATION

OPR

The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is an office within the Idaho Division of Peace Officer Standards and Training. OPR is staffed by OPR Manager, Dan Smith, a former NCIS Special Agent, and ten contract investigators located throughout the State of Idaho. All of the investigators are former federal, state or local law enforcement officers. POST investigators endeavor to complete thorough, competent investigations to ensure the entire story is presented during the reporting of allegations against peace officers and others we certify. It is a mainstay of POST's mission to maintain an ethical and lawful law enforcement profession for the people of Idaho.

The Idaho Legislature formally established the Idaho Peace Officers Standards and Training Council (POST Council) for the purpose, among others, of setting requirements for employment, retention, and training of peace officers, including formulating standards of moral character, and other such matters as relate to the competence and reliability of peace officers. The POST Council also has the power to decertify peace officers upon findings that a peace officer is in violation of certain specified standards, including criminal offenses, or violation of any of the standards of conduct as established by the Council's Code of Ethics. Idaho Code also requires that when a peace officer resigns his employment or is terminated as a result of any disciplinary action, the employing law enforcement agency shall report the employment action to the POST Council within 15 days.

IDAPA 11, Title 11, Chapter 01

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