

## Peace Officer Standards and Training



# Integrity Bulletin

## “turn an honest penny”

To earn money in an honorable and legitimate way

No one has ever gotten rich working for Uncle Sam, but if you work hard and are smart with your money you'll provide for your family.

Poor choices in a Law Enforcement officer's career are particularly hurtful to him, his family, and community. LEO's are expected to lead an exemplary life. LEO's are entrusted with and provided certain powers and authority to enforce the laws of the community and protect its citizenry from those who would harm it. When a LEO is the one inflicting the harm, the pain is that much more violating and hurtful. The aspirations many LEO's have of respect, integrity, and courage, quickly turn to contempt, dishonesty and cowardice. You know, LIFE HAPPENS, and its how we handle the trials and temptations in our life that will determine who we are. What's the saying by John Gooden?

“The true test of a **man's character**  
is what he does when **no one is watching.**”



### 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 do?

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

Remember the words, “moral turpitude?” They are used in the legislation that allows for a uniform standard for individuals with prior drug use, and sets forth improved DUI standards, and acts related to juvenile conduct. We trust 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

### 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 “enlightenment” and, quite honestly, your incredulous entertainment. 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 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.

*“... I’m baffled too, I don’t have a clue.”*

IDAPA 91.04

a. Engages in criminal conduct whether charged or not.

g. Acts of corruption....

h. Unauthorized use or unlawful conversion of the property, equipment, or funds.

IDAPA 064:

02. Personal and Official Life. 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.



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### ...BUT FOR THE ONE BAD PENNY

A few years back, the Sheriff’s Office discovered their narcotics investigation funds missing. No worries, just contact Officer Baffled, the custodian of the funds, surely he’ll know where they are...probably in the safe or filing drawers or in his desk. Phew...good thing...Officer Baffled knew exactly where the funds were; he turned them into the county treasurer’s office because they haven’t used them in at least four years. “Yes, Sir, the monies have been dutifully accounted for, on multiple occasions each year.” Although the dollar amounts changed here and there since 2013, the pennies were always the same, .83 cents. Oh, but wait, the treasurer’s office said, Officer Baffled never brought the money to them. They have no record or recollection of the deposit to their office. How could this be? “I’m baffled too, I don’t have a clue” Officer Baffled said. Well, for good measure and for the integrity of this internal investigation, Officer Baffled was put on administrative leave only to be let back in the office the next day to retrieve his personal items from his desk. While “cleaning out his property” he suddenly stopped in pure surprise (and “bafflement”) when he came across the “lost” envelope of monies he thought he had turned into the treasurer’s office, in the bottom drawer of his filing cabinet.

And the interesting part about Officer Baffled finding the lost funds, is that the funds apparently earned interest while lost; there was more money in the envelope than noted in the accounting ledger; about \$51.91 more. Hmm, no worries, surely Officer Baffled just merely miscounted during the last audit and then misplaced the envelope (in the bottom drawer of his filing cabinet) before remembering he turned it into the treasurer’s office. So, lets just count the monies again and call it good.

Investigators in this case were no dumb bunnies. They also discovered two pennies, in the newly discovered envelope, that were minted in 2015 and 2016. The last time the funds had been added-to was in 2013.

**Misappropriation of Public funds was the charge, and Guilty was the plea. Decertification, Done.**

NO POLY, NO PROBLEM



## HARD TO FIND THE GOOD ONES

Finding good LEO recruits is a challenge. Adding to the difficult challenges LE agencies face, are the ever changing social tolerances, including minor crimes and “used-to-be” illicit drug use. As some of our states and the culture accepts the use of marijuana and other drugs, and as the trend towards legalization of pot continues, more and more young people engage in behaviors that will ultimately keep them from getting a criminal justice job...

OR MAYBE NOT?

One day, a wanna-be correction officer, Mary Jane Allotapot, applied to become a correction officer. Well done, Mary Jane, you got the job. Fast forward about 420 days or so and now Mary Jane is upping her game, she’s applied to the Truthsburg Sheriff’s Office. While processing Mary Jane’s POST character disclosure forms, POST discovered some drug usage discrepancies. On her first application, Mary Jane provided dates and the number of times she used illegal drugs that were different from her application submitted to the Truthsburg S.O.

As it turns out, Mary Jane’s initial application for POST certification (Character Disclosure form) listed all the times she had used illicit drugs, which so happened to be just beyond the reach of the disqualification dates. But after learning of the **POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION** pending at Truthsburg S.O., Mary Jane decided to come clean with them, providing ALL her illicit drug use, including the dates she so enjoyed them. (Oh, those were the good ole’ days.)

Unfortunately, Mary Jane also had to come clean during a POST interview where she admitted the omission of all her usage. It was good for Mary Jane to be honest (now), but it was a little too late for her considering our friend, BRADY, requires honesty throughout your career.

NO POLY-NO PROBLEM  
LEGAL STUFFS

POST Council’s Code of  
Ethics/Standards of Con-  
duct, IDAPA Rule

11.11.01.090:

03 b. The Council may  
decertify any officer  
who... willfully or other-  
wise falsifies or omits  
any material information  
to obtain any certified  
status...

AND POST council’s



Code of Ethics/Additional  
Cause for Decertification,  
IDAPA Rule 11.11.01.091:

d. Lying or falsifying offi-  
cial written or verbal  
communications.

The “story” over  
there is true and  
occurred three times  
this year.



## CHIVALRY LEGAL STUFFS



It appears Sgt. Romeo Casanova violated the following section of IDAPA rule 11.11.01.064 POST Council's Code of Ethics/Standards of Conduct:

.02 ...Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department.

It also appears he violated the following sections of IDAPA Rule 11.11.01.091, POST Council's Code of Ethics, Additional Cause for Decertification:

- a. Engages in criminal conduct whether charged or not.
- e. Engages in inappropriate sexual conduct while on duty.

## CHIVALRY GONE AWRY

After being arrested for DUI and booked, Ms. Desiree Amorus, needed a ride home. Sgt Romeo Casanova chivalrously volunteered. As per policy, Casanova gave his beginning and ending mileage to dispatch for this courtesy transport. Oops, Amorus left her keys to her house in her now impounded vehicle. No worries, Casanova to the rescue again...he found an unlocked window, helped Amorus in it and she opened the door to let him in and show him pictures of her grandchildren. He checked the house to insure security and returned to the front room where Amorus gave him a hug and kissed him.

According to Amorus, the next morning, she awoke to find herself in her bed, disrobed and not remembering how she got there. Her shirt was next to the piano; her bra was on the piano bench and her pants were near her bed. She found a business card for Sgt. Romeo Casanova. Amorus called Casanova and left a message stating she was confused and had questions about the previous night. Casanova returned her call off duty, but wait, his cell phone battery was dying and "why don't I stop by" (of course, to explain any questions she might have about the DUI arrest.) While discussing her arrest paperwork, Casanova put his arms around her and told her she was a good person. She told him she was disabled, partially diagnosed with depression and is dealing with alcoholism. Being the consoling and passionate one, Casanova approached her and began caressing her and kissing her on the neck and telling her he could help. He then began touching Amorus in the nether regions, if you will, (I'm sure to ensure all her privates were in the places God placed them.) Amorus finally found the courage to tell Casanova to leave. On his way out, "This is just between us, right?"

The progression of the subsequent interviews with Casanova went something like this:

"I didn't have sexual contact with her, period." "I didn't do this."

"She pulled up her shirt and showed me her breasts and that is when I left."

"She came on to me." "I did not shut her down quick enough"

"and anyway she is not really very good looking." But, I "did not sleep with her."

"I do not have it in me to force myself on a woman. I am not that kind of person; totally consensual."

"I created this whole thing."

"I put myself right in the middle of it."

Casanova did touch Desiree Amorus's "privates" and confirmed he had a sexual encounter with her after being administered a third POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.

Dispatch logs: depart 2251,  
arrival 2301, cleared 2332

## IN THE NEWS

**Texas officer arrested, accused of stealing \$830 in groceries from Walmart**

(Nov 23, 2017, By Joy Johnston, Cox Media Group National Content Desk)

A three year police officer in Denton County Texas has been arrested, accused of stealing over \$800 in groceries from a Walmart.

Christopher Hankins, 30, is a Dallas Police Department officer. The store manager told police that Hankins was wearing his police department jacket and spent almost three hours in the store, acting suspiciously before leaving the store without paying. Arresting officers reported smelling alcohol on Hankins' breath.

IB Editor's note: I'm sure if we checked his court history, we're going to find creditors snooping around...happens every time with these type cases.



POST Academy Training Coordinator, DAVE HEIMER is one of the best. He has been at POST for over 20 years, currently working with Corrections, Parole and Probation.

Thanks to Senior Probation and Parole Officer, Jaclyn Brumbaugh, District 2, for sharing this story.

The “finger wag” saved the day.

## WHAT’S IN A CEILING?

To: Heimer, David

Hi David, First of all, thank you for being a part of POST.

I was in P&P Class 25 this time last year and I got a story that I would like to share with you...

The other night, as I was conducting a search of a residence, I recalled something you said during class in the Academy that turned out to be extremely helpful and made me look pretty cool in front of the local PD. You shared a story about someone hiding in a ceiling that blew all of our minds... I remembered you specifically wagging your finger and saying, “always check the ceiling” with a smirk. Anyways, I pulled up to the house by myself and noticed a man in the front yard who is an ex-parolee, Isaiah, and has been known to be dealing drugs recently. He quickly disappeared after seeing me. I called for backup and waiting for the PD to show. I asked them to clear the residence... Isaiah was gone, presumably out the back yard, over a fence and into the night. After recovering one stolen motorcycle and corraling the pit bulls, we started sifting through the house. I was in the bedroom searching by myself for a while and found some drug paraphernalia, so I brought one of the PD guys back to go through it, collect evidence and teach me a couple things about what I had found. During this time I kept looking up at a tile in the ceiling that looked to be going to an attic. What you said was replaying in my head the whole time I was in that room; “Always check the ceiling \*finger wag\*” but that tile had to have been only off about a ½ inch or so. While we were collecting evidence and ready to leave, I looked up one last time and told the Officer, “man I just really wanna look in that ceiling...what do you think?” He didn’t really like the idea but he was willing to do it because that’s what good Officers do! He started pushing on the tile and what do ya know, it pushed back!!!! He gave me a wide-eyed look and said, “I think someone’s up there, holy s\*\*t!” Well that changed the game pretty quick from learning about new drug paraphernalia to a high speed game of get the guy out of the ceiling!

All ended up well. Isaiah came down, eventually. I got a couple fist bumps from the guys, and a kid got his motorcycle back with a new paint job and fender. When I asked Isaiah why in the world would he go in a ceiling instead of out the back yard he said... “Well... who the hell checks the attic?!”

Apparently you do and now I do.

Anyways hope you enjoyed my story and keep passing your knowledge forward. Sure helped me a bunch!

Jaclyn Brumbaugh

Sr. Probation/Parole Officer

District 2

## 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 eight 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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