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# Iowa State University Department of Public Safety

Directive: 41.5

SUBJECT: DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/18/19

REVISED DATE: 02/15/21

REVIEWED DATE:

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## POLICY:

The Iowa State University Department of Public Safety Drug Recognition Experts shall be utilized to assist the University and other agencies, both in and around Story County, in the detection and removal of drugged drivers from the roads and highways. The DRE shall conduct detailed physical diagnostic examinations of persons who have been arrested for impaired driving or similar offenses.

## DEFINITIONS:

The "Drug Recognition Expert" (DRE) process is systematic and standardized. It is a twelve-step process that evaluates a person's behavior and overall appearance. Drug Recognition Experts observe and record a number of signs and systems to help the DRE form an opinion of what category or categories of drugs have been used. Each DRE conducts their evaluation the same way.

## PROCEDURE:

### 41.5.1 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) PROGRAM

The following shall describe procedures governing the administration of the Department DRE program:

- A. The DRE is responsible for conducting examinations in a professional manner of suspected drug-impaired drivers. The DRE should assist in explaining their role and availability to other police departments in and around Story County.
- B. The DRE shall report directly to their first-line supervisor. The Captain of Field Services shall be designated as the DRE program coordinator.
- C. The DRE shall maintain certification. The National Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (as written by the IACP Advisory Committee on Highway Safety of the International Association of Chiefs of Police [IACP]) requires DREs to renew their certificates of continuing proficiency every two years. Continuing proficiency is defined as follows:
  - 1. Performing a minimum of four (4) acceptable evaluations since the date of last certification, all of which shall be reviewed and approved by a certified DRE instructor and one (1) of which shall be witnessed by a certified DRE instructor;
  - 2. Completing a minimum of eight hours of IACP recertification training since the date of the DRE's most recent certification;
  - 3. Presenting an updated resume and rolling activity log to the agency coordinator for an annual review; and
  - 4. Sending the rolling activity log via e-mail to a national database, where it will also be reviewed by the IACP.
- D. Supplies needed by the DRE are provided by the Department. The cost of conducting DRE evaluations within Story County will be absorbed by the Department. The cost of performing evaluations conducted outside of Story County will be charged on a case-by-case basis.

### 41.5.2 PERSONNEL SELECTION

The following shall govern personnel selection for the DRE program:

- A. The Department DRE program is staffed by a sworn officer who works in concert with other DREs across the state of Iowa.

- B. When a vacancy exists, the Captain of Field Services shall reevaluate the program and determine whether continuation is appropriate. If the decision has been made to continue the Department DRE program, officers who are interested in being selected for the position should forward a letter to the Captain of Field Services, through the officer's chain of command. The letter should detail the officer's experience, qualifications and interest in the position. The Captain of Field Services should review the qualifications of officers who have forwarded a letter of interest and, in consultation with members of the management team, assign an officer as replacement.

#### **41.5.3 OPERATION OF DRE PROGRAM**

The following shall govern procedures for requesting the DRE:

- A. When called upon, the DRE will conduct examinations of suspected drug-impaired drivers. Based upon the information obtained, the DRE will form an expert opinion as to whether the person is impaired, whether the impairment is due to drugs, and which category or combination of categories of drugs is the most likely source of the impairment. The examinations conducted will be systematic. The DRE will observe and record signs and symptoms. The examinations will also be standardized; the examination will be conducted using the same methods, each time. The examinations will take place in a controlled environment. Examinations will not take place roadside, because the measurements and observations that need to be made cannot accurately be performed under roadside conditions. In some cases, the people examined will be drivers that the DRE personally arrested. However, it is likely that most of the time the people will be arrested by other officers.
- B. The DRE will be available and present when on regular duty or during overtime assignments. The DRE will be available for call-in, but is not on-call, on an overtime basis under most circumstances. Manager-on-call or police supervisor approval is required for all DRE response requests originating from an agency outside Story County. If the request cannot be honored, the law enforcement dispatcher will forward that information to the Captain of Field Services. If, for some reason, the DRE is unavailable, the Communications Center can refer the requester to a provided list of statewide drug recognition experts.