


<p style="text-align: center;">RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 1.03</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Date of Issue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2/23/2016</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective Date</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2/23/2016</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: CODE OF ETHICS & MISSION</p>	<p>Amends:</p>		<p>Rescinds:</p>
<p>Index as: Code of Ethics; Ethics, Code of; Mission Statement; PRIDE</p>	<p>State Certification Standards: 1.1, 1.3</p>		

PURPOSE

To provide a written code of values and ethical conduct that will serve as a model for all members of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that all employees abide by the values expressed in the mission statement and operate under the code of ethics at all times, but most particularly when situations arise that are not directly addressed by any sheriff's office orders or policies and procedures.

I. MISSION STATEMENT

- A. We the members of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office are committed to providing the highest quality of law enforcement services by empowering our members and the community to work in partnership with the goal of improving the quality of life within Rabun County, while at the same time maintaining respect for individual rights and human dignity.
- B. Members of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office shall function under the acronym: P.R.I.D.E.
 - 1. Partnership: We are committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve issues, which impact public safety.

2. **Respect:** We are committed to respecting individual rights, human dignity and the value of all members of the community and the department.
 3. **Integrity:** We are committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.
 4. **Dedication:** We are committed to providing the highest quality of professional law enforcement service to the community with the goal of enhancing the quality of life within Rabun County.
 5. **Empowerment:** We are committed to empowering our members and the community to resolve problems by creating an environment that encourages solutions that address the needs of the community.
- C. To these ends, the Rabun County Sheriff's Office will maintain itself at a peak of optimum preparedness capable of immediate and appropriate response, and conduct itself in a manner, which will reflect the highest and most noble credit upon itself as a servant of honor in the community.

II. CODE OF ETHICS – LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Rabun County Sheriff's Office has adopted the "Law Enforcement Code of Ethics" published by the National Sheriff's Association, stated as follows:

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the 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 unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the law enforcement service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession — LAW ENFORCEMENT.

III. CODE OF ETHICS – CIVILIAN

As a member of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.

I WILL keep myself in the best physical and mental condition at all times.

I WILL perform my duties with efficiency to the best of my ability.

I WILL be truthful at all times. My conduct and performance of duties will be accomplished in an honest manner, and in compliance with the laws; local, county, state, country and the Rabun County Sheriff's Office Rules and Regulations.

I WILL adhere to the confidentiality of the Law Enforcement profession.

I WILL NOT, in the performance of my duties, work for unethical advantage or personal profit.

I WILL recognize at all times that I am a public safety employee, and that ultimately I am responsible to the public.

I WILL give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times.

I WILL be courteous in all my contacts at all times.

I WILL regard my fellow employees with equality, dignity and respect.

I WILL be loyal to my fellow employees, my superiors and my agency.

I WILL accept responsibility for my actions.

I WILL strive to do only those things that will reflect honor on my fellow employees, my agency and myself.

The Rabun County Sheriff's Office will provide ethics training annually to all members of the department by the use of classroom instruction, shift briefing, computer based training and bulletins and/or roll call training.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County