Facing Ethics in Criminal Justice

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Law Enforcement Justification of Actions

1. Morality
2. Ethics
3. Ethical Dilemmas
4. Changing Demographics and Migrant Prototypes
5. Hate Crime
6. Rules to Public Policing
7. Answering to Confrontations Relating to Accusations of Extreme Use of Force
8. Principles of Good Policing

Abstract

Ethics investigation is now one of law enforcement’s utmost education and guidance needs. At no time in the history of policing, has it been more fundamental for chiefs to deal with the ethical issues facing this profession. The major topics discussed are morals, ethics, ethical dilemmas, changing demographics and migrant prototypes, hate crimes, rules for public policing, answering to confrontations relating to accusations of extreme use of force, and principles of good policing.

Introduction

Trustworthiness, truthfulness, bravery, accountability all of these words are used to define a person who is ethical. Ethics is a current subject of discussion these days, particularly in the law enforcement field. The criminal justice officer should symbolize the highest level of ethical conduct in a community, but society’s view of suitable police behavior is changing considerably. The ethics and morals, of employees of the criminal justice system, is being compromised in our culture today. The main group affected by today's’ culture is the police officer.

The share of the men and women in law enforcement all over this country hold the public trust as sacred. These men and women are truthful, hard-working police officers who commit to serving the public with honesty and the highest standards of ethical behavior. Regardless of a rising commitment to integrity in police departments and law enforcement agencies, a small percentage mistreat or neglect the public’s trust.

Law Enforcement Justification of Actions

1. Morality

A moral rule has the assets that, when a person follows the rule, he/she will manage to feel the response known as goodness, and, if he/she does not follow the rule, he/she will have a habit of feeling the response known as remorse.

“There are social costs associated with enforcement of moral rules through the moral incentives, these being mainly the actual experiencing guilt and disapprobation. But account must also be taken of virtue and of praise, which are positive elements, not costs, and of the fact that others make efforts to admonish and to praise, which have utility consequences for them as well.” (Shavell, S. 2002)

1. Ethics

Ethics is making the best choice, whatever that may be. The “best choice” is given those qualities society holds dear. Ethical principles are started on the thought that privilege is constantly good and bad is never right. Adherence to high ethical guidelines is essential to accomplish the general objective in present day policing. Police officers are only human but in today’s society applying near perfect ethical standards is a must for law enforcement departments.

“Police officers are held to a higher standard of behavior by society because they are stewards of the public trust and are empowered to apply force and remove constitutional privileges when lawfully justified. They take an oath of office, are expected to comply with professional codes of ethics, and are subject to various laws, rules, and regulations.” (Gleason 2015)

Conclusion

Law enforcement justification of actions taken can vary from state to state, from county to county, and from city to city. Today’s society promotes black against white, white against black, and many other hate crimes. One has to admit there are a few “bad apples” in law enforcement but the majority are the real deal to “protect and serve.” The world is in turmoil and will not get any better until everyone puts God where he belongs. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)

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