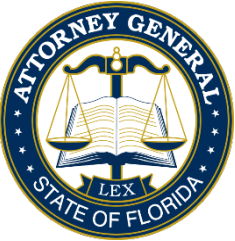



**STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL UNIT**

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

 	TITLE: Bias Free Policing	POLICY NUMBER: 3.10
	CFA STANDARD(S): 2.06M	REVIEW:
	AMENDS: Standard Operating Procedure 3.10, issued November 2, 2020	RESCINDS:
	EFFECTIVE: December 4, 2023	APPLICABILITY: All Members

Approved by: 
KATHLEEN VON HOENE, Director

I. PURPOSE

Biased policing undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts, alienates community members and fosters community distrust. This policy is intended to reaffirm this unit's commitment to fair and impartial policing. The purpose of this policy is to unequivocally state that biased policing in law enforcement is totally unacceptable, to provide guidelines for officers to avoid such occurrences, and to protect officers from unfounded allegations when they act within the scope of their authority, policies and procedures, federal law, state law, and articulated facts.

II. POLICY

In conducting law enforcement activities, MFCU staff shall engage in bias free policing such that personnel may not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation/identity, socioeconomic status, religion, and/or age. Biased policing is strictly

Bias Free Policing, Policy 3.10

prohibited. Sworn officers shall enforce state and federal laws and applicable policies and procedures in a responsible and professional manner, without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, income status, religion, or cultural group.

III. AUTHORITY

U.S. Const. amend. XIV
Chapter 943.1758, Florida Statutes
Chapter 943.1716, Florida Statutes

IV. DEFINITIONS

Bias Free Policing - Any police-initiated action that relies on the behavior of an individual or information which leads the police to a particular individual who has been identified as being, or having been, engaged in criminal activity without reliance on or consideration of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation/identity, socioeconomic status, religion, and or/age.

Biased Policing. The inappropriate consideration of specified characteristics while enforcing the law or providing police services. Specified characteristics includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability, political status, or any other legally protected characteristics. (2.06M C.)

V. PROCEDURES

1. Laws shall not be selectively enforced, or not enforced, based to any degree on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation/identity, socioeconomic status, religion and/or age.
2. All officers are required to attend training in fair and impartial policing including legal aspects; in accordance with Florida Statutes. All officers' training files will be periodically reviewed to ensure successful completion training listed above. (2.06M A.)
3. Citizen Complaints that specifically allege biased policing on the part of members will follow normal procedures. All complaint procedures and dispositions shall be conducted in accordance with OAG OIG internal investigations procedures.
4. Any member found to have violated this policy will be subject to corrective actions as determined by the MFCU Director or his/her designee. (2.06M B.)
5. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit shall post this policy on the MFCU web page to serve as community education and awareness efforts. (2.06M D.)

Bias Free Policing, Policy 3.10

6. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit does not conduct traffic stops, therefore the documented administrative review will be based upon any complaints against members that are handled in accordance with OAG Policy on Procedures for Filing Complaints, policy adherence, and training requirements. (2.06M A., E., and F.)

VI. ATTACHMENTS

VII. SUPERSEDES

Standard Operating Procedure 3.10, issued November 2, 2020.