

CODE OF POLICE ETHICS

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Date of last check: 9 June 2026

Pursuant to Article 29, paragraph 3 of the Law on Internal Affairs ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", Nos. 70/21, 123/21, 3/23 and 84/24), the Ministry of the Interior has adopted the

CODE OF POLICE ETHICS¹

Subject

Article 1

This Code regulates the rules of ethical conduct and the rules of behaviour of police officers, which they are obliged to observe in the performance of police duties both during and outside working hours.

Objective

Article 2

The objective of this Code is to preserve, promote and enhance the dignity and reputation of police officers through improving lawful, professional, fair, conscientious and humane conduct of police officers, and to strengthen public trust in the work of the state administration authority responsible for internal affairs (hereinafter: the Ministry), i.e. the organisational unit of the Ministry performing police duties (hereinafter: the Police), as well as to preserve integrity and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens in the performance of police duties both during and outside working hours.

Conduct

Article 3

A police officer shall act in accordance with the standards and principles laid down in the Constitution and regulations governing the conduct of police officers, as well as with

¹ "Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 029/26 of 5 March 2026, 040/26 of 23 March 2026, 077/26 of 05 June 2026

ratified and published international treaties and generally accepted rules of international law that form an integral part of the domestic legal order.

Application of the Code

Article 4

The Code of Police Ethics obliges all police officers to respect ethical principles and rules of conduct in their relations with citizens, state authorities, institutions, associations of citizens, legal entities, as well as in their mutual relations.

Use of gender-sensitive language

Article 5

Terms used in this Code in the masculine gender for natural persons shall be deemed to include the corresponding terms in the feminine gender.

Protection of Reputation

Article 6

A police officer shall perform police duties in a manner that does not diminish his or her reputation or the reputation of the Police as a whole, respects good customs, and follows ethical principles in the consistent enforcement of the law.

A police officer shall be obliged to conduct himself, both during and outside working hours, in a manner that does not undermine his reputation or the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police as a whole.

Standards of Police Conduct

Article 7

A police officer shall adhere to standards of police conduct that respect the dignity, reputation and honour of every person against whom police powers are exercised in the performance of police duties and the exercise of police powers.

A police officer shall take all measures and actions that enable persons to exercise their human rights freely and effectively, while, when lawfully restricting rights and freedoms, the police officer shall respect the dignity, reputation and honour of every person, in a manner that prevents any form of violence, torture, abuse, inhuman treatment and other degrading acts.

A police officer shall be obliged, in the manner and under the conditions prescribed by law, to undertake the necessary actions to protect human life, even where his own life is endangered in the performance of such duties.

A police officer shall be obliged to provide assistance on his own initiative to any person in danger, and to prevent or suppress acts that may disturb public order and peace or endanger human life, the territorial integrity and property of the State, and the constitutional order.

A police officer shall not engage in discrimination and shall promote equality, without placing any person in a privileged or unequal position in the exercise of their rights and obligations.

A police officer shall be obliged to refuse unlawful orders and to combat all forms of corruption, while respecting his personal integrity and the integrity of the Police, in accordance with the law.

In communication with citizens, state authorities, non-governmental organisations and other institutions, a police officer shall be principled, consistent, decisive, persistent, fair, professional, decent and correct.

Refusal of Gifts

Article 8

A police officer shall not accept gifts or other benefits in connection with or during the performance of police duties, except in the case of protocol gifts received during international visits or on similar occasions.

If a police officer is offered a gift, benefit or any other advantage in connection with the performance of police duties, he shall be obliged to:

- refuse the gift, benefit or other advantage,
- identify, where possible, the person who offered the gift, benefit or other advantage,
- immediately report the offer of the gift, benefit or other advantage to his superior officer,
- make an official note of the offer of the gift, benefit or other advantage.

Invoking Official Position

Article 9

A police officer shall not use or invoke his official position to obtain privileges or material or other benefits.

When carrying out private activities, a police officer shall not use his official identification, badge, weapon, other equipment or means intended for the performance of police duties, nor the official position he holds within the Ministry, i.e. the Police.

Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

Article 10

A police officer shall not behave in a manner that may constitute a conflict of interest or an obstacle to the proper performance of police duties.

A police officer shall be obliged to report to his immediate supervisor, i.e. the head of the authority, any potential conflict of interest or circumstances that may call into question his objectivity, his personal integrity and the integrity of the Ministry, i.e. the Police.

Dress Standards

Article 11

A police officer shall take care of his personal appearance and ensure that his dress is appropriate to the duties he performs and shall ensure that his appearance and attire do not undermine his own reputation or the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police.

A police officer whose duties, by their nature and conditions, require him to perform certain police tasks in plain clothes in accordance with the law, shall ensure that his personal appearance and manner of dress do not undermine his own reputation or the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police.

Conduct in Public Appearances

Article 12

A police officer, in public appearances when representing the Ministry, i.e. the Police, shall present the views of the Ministry, i.e. the Police, in accordance with applicable regulations, his powers, professional knowledge and this Code.

When presenting the views of the Ministry, i.e. the Police, as well as his personal views, a police officer shall safeguard the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police, and his own reputation.

In the course of trade union, professional or other permitted forms of activity, a police officer shall not disclose information that could undermine the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police, or public trust in their work, except where such information is provided, in accordance with the law, to competent authorities or other institutions for the performance of their functions.

Use of Social Media

Article 13

When engaging in activities on social media, a police officer shall conduct himself in a manner that protects his own reputation and the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police as a whole, in accordance with the law and this Code.

When engaging in activities on social media, a police officer shall not express his political or other beliefs or views that may incite hatred or intolerance on any grounds.

Recording and Photography

Article 14

A police officer shall not carry out photography or audio-visual recording (of official premises, facilities, actions of police officers, vehicles and other means), nor publish or distribute such material by any means, except under the conditions and in the manner prescribed by law.

A police officer shall not photograph or publish his own photographs and video recordings, or those of other police officers, at the workplace, in uniform, or during the performance of duties.

Police officers shall be obliged to refrain from publishing texts, comments, photographs or audio-visual materials of inappropriate content that may undermine the reputation of the Ministry, i.e. the Police.

Handling of Information

Article 15

A police officer shall not use official information obtained in the performance of police duties for private purposes.

A police officer shall not unlawfully share or make official information and data available to third parties, regardless of their content or nature, in particular those that could endanger the course of proceedings, the exercise of police powers, measures and actions, as well as the rights of third parties.

Political Neutrality

Article 16

For the purpose of preserving political and ideological neutrality as prescribed by law, a police officer shall not, during or outside working hours, express his personal views regarding political affiliations, beliefs or opinions.

Mutual Relations

Article 17

Relations between police officers shall be based on mutual respect, reciprocal and supportive assistance, collegiality, tolerance, honesty, mutual trust and dignity, constructive criticism and good communication.

Protection of Property and Assets

Article 18

A police officer shall, as a responsible person, take care in the management and use of material and financial resources entrusted to him in the performance of his duties, and prevent their unlawful use.

A police officer shall take care to implement prescribed measures for the protection of material and financial resources entrusted to him in the performance of his duties, as well as to eliminate the risk of material damage to the Ministry, i.e. the Police.

Head of an Organisational Unit

Article 19

The head of an organisational unit of the Ministry, i.e. the Police, shall, through his personal example, commitment and work, set a positive example of ethical conduct for other police officers.

The head referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be obliged to promote ethical leadership and conduct, to contribute to the creation of a working environment based on integrity, mutual respect and trust, and to motivate police officers to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The head referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be obliged to monitor the implementation of this Code, to indicate, in accordance with the principle of hierarchy, shortcomings in the work of the police officers he supervises, and to take the necessary measures in case of violations of the ethical principles established by this Code, in accordance with the law.

Reporting Unethical Conduct

Article 20

A police officer shall be obliged to report to his immediate supervisor or to the Ethics Committee any breach of this Code by other police officers.

If a police officer considers that he is being required to act in a manner contrary to this Code and/or in a manner that may lead to a violation of human rights and freedoms, he shall be obliged to inform the Ethics Committee thereof.

Violation of the Code of Police Ethics

Article 21

Police officers shall be subject to disciplinary liability for violations of this Code, in accordance with the law.

Powers of the Ethics Committee

Article 22

(Decision on Amendments to the Code of Police Ethics, Official Gazette 077/26 as of 5 June 2026, Article 1)

In addition to the powers prescribed by the law governing internal affairs, the Ethics Committee shall:

- provide opinions regarding the application of this Code,
- monitor its implementation and initiate amendments to regulations in the field of police ethics,
- promote ethical standards and rules of conduct within the Ministry, i.e. the Police,
- provide opinions with recommendations to police officers who are making inquiries to the Ethics Committee for confidential counselling regarding the implementation of this Code.

Confidential Counselling

Article 22a

(Decision on Amendments to the Code of Police Ethics, Official Gazette 077/26 as of 5 June 2026, Article 2)

Police officer may, in cases of uncertainty as to whether his conduct is in compliance with the Code, submit a written request to the Ethics Committee for confidential advice concerning the application of this Code.

In case referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article the Ethics Committee shall provide an opinion with recommendations within 30 days from the date of the request of the police officer.

Confidential counselling referred to in paragraph 1 implies the protection of the police officer's privacy in communications with the Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee shall not consider submissions made anonymously.

Introduction of New Police Officers to the Code of Police Ethics

Article 23

The immediate supervisor shall be obliged to acquaint a person entering employment for the first time as a police officer with the provisions of this Code.

The person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall, after being acquainted with the provisions of this Code, sign a statement confirming his compliance with it.

The template of the statement referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article forms an integral part of this Code (Annex)

Cessation of Validity

Article 24

On the date of entry into force of this Code, the Code of Police Ethics ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 87/21) shall cease to be valid.

Entry into Force

Article 25

This Code shall enter into force on the eighth day following its publication in the "Official Gazette of Montenegro".

01 Number: 102/26-2249/2
Podgorica, 27. February 2026.
Minister,
Danilo Saranovic, m.p

ANNEX

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Police Directorate

Organizational unit:

Number:

Pursuant to Article 22, paragraph 2 of the Code of Police Ethics ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. ...), the following is issued:

STATEMENT

I have been acquainted with the provisions of the Code of Police Ethics and agree to apply and respect them in my work.

Name and surname of the police officer

Name and surname of the immediate supervisor

Place:

Date: