703.4.2 UNSCHEDULED TAKE-HOME USE

Circumstances may arise where office vehicles must be used by members to commute to and from a work assignment. Members may take home office vehicles only with prior approval of a supervisor and shall meet the following criteria:

(a) The circumstances are unplanned and were created by the needs of the Office.

(b) Other reasonable transportation options are not available.

(c) The member lives within a reasonable distance (generally not to exceed a 60-minute drive time) of the Oliver County County limits.

(d) Off-street parking will be available at the member's residence.

(e) Vehicles will be locked when not attended.

(f) All firearms, weapons and control devices will be removed from the interior of the vehicle and properly secured in the residence when the vehicle is not attended, unless the vehicle is parked in a locked garage.

703.4.3 ASSIGNED VEHICLES

Assignment of take-home vehicles shall be based on the location of the member's residence; the nature of the member's duties, job description and essential functions; and the member's employment or appointment status. Residence in the County of Oliver County is a prime consideration for assignment of a take-home vehicle. Members who reside outside the County of Oliver County may be required to secure the vehicle at a designated location or the Office at the discretion of the Sheriff.

Office members shall sign a take-home vehicle agreement that outlines certain standards, including, but not limited to, how the vehicle shall be used, where it shall be parked when the member is not on-duty, vehicle maintenance responsibilities and member enforcement actions.

Members are cautioned that under federal and local tax rules, personal use of a County vehicle may create an income tax liability for the member. Questions regarding tax rules should be directed to the member's tax adviser.

Criteria for use of take-home vehicles include the following:

(a) Vehicles shall only be used for work-related purposes and shall not be used for personal errands or transports, unless special circumstances exist and the Sheriff or a Division Commander gives authorization.

(b) Vehicles may be used to transport the member to and from the member's residence for work-related purposes.

(c) Vehicles will not be used when off-duty except:

1. In circumstances when a member has been placed on call by the Sheriff or Division Commanders and there is a high probability that the member will be called back to duty.

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2. When the member is performing a work-related function during what normally would be an off-duty period, including vehicle maintenance or traveling to or from a work-related activity or function.
3. When the member has received permission from the Sheriff or Division Commanders.
4. When the vehicle is being used by the Sheriff, Division Commanders or members who are in on-call administrative positions.
5. When the vehicle is being used by on-call investigators.

(d) While operating the vehicle, authorized members will carry and have accessible their duty firearms and be prepared to perform any function they would be expected to perform while on-duty.

(e) The two-way communications radio, MDC and global positioning satellite device, if equipped, must be on and set to an audible volume when the vehicle is in operation.

(f) Unattended vehicles are to be locked and secured at all times.

1. No key should be left in the vehicle except when it is necessary that the vehicle be left running (e.g., continued activation of emergency lights, canine safety, equipment charging).
2. All weapons shall be secured while the vehicle is unattended.
3. All office identification, portable radios and equipment should be secured.

(g) Vehicles are to be parked ~~off-street~~ at the member's residence unless prior arrangements have been made with the Sheriff. ~~or the authorized designee. If the vehicle is not secured inside a locked garage, all firearms and kinetic impact weapons shall be removed and properly secured in the residence (see the Firearms Policy regarding safe storage of firearms at home).~~

(h) Vehicles are to be secured at the member's residence or the appropriate office facility, at the discretion of the Office when a member will be away (e.g., on vacation) for periods exceeding one week.

1. If the vehicle remains at the residence of the member, the Office shall have access to the vehicle.
2. If the member is unable to provide access to the vehicle, it shall be parked at the Office.

(i) The member is responsible for the care and maintenance of the vehicle.

703.4.4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

When driving a take-home vehicle to and from work outside of the jurisdiction of the Oliver County Sheriff's Office or while off-duty, a deputy shall not initiate enforcement actions except in those circumstances where a potential threat to life or serious property damage exists (see the Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions and Law Enforcement Authority policies).

Deputies may render public assistance when it is deemed prudent (e.g., to a stranded motorist).

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