

# General Order

## Houston Police Department



**ISSUE DATE:**

March 15, 2017

**NO.**

200-33

**REFERENCE:** Supersedes all prior conflicting Circulars and Directives, and General Order 200-33, dated December 22, 2005

---

**SUBJECT: OATH OF OFFICE AND PROMOTIONAL OATH**

---

### POLICY

This General Order adopts the Oath of Office and Promotional Oath as the general standards of conduct for officers of the Houston Police Department. Sections 1, 2, and 4 apply to classified employees only. Section 3 applies to all employees.

#### **1 OATH OF OFFICE**

Police officers are given such broad powers and responsibilities that society places their private lives and official actions under special and solemn constraints. Taking an oath of office is a universal practice in law enforcement service, and it is common for officers to subscribe to a professional code of ethics.

It is the policy of the Houston Police Department that all personnel, prior to assuming sworn status, shall take the department's formal oath of appointment. These oaths bind officers to enforce the law without prejudice or malice and to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the state of Texas Constitution, and local ordinances.

#### **2 PROMOTIONAL OATH**

All classified personnel who are to be promoted to a higher rank shall, upon request and prior to the promotion, sign a written promotional oath.

By signing the written promotional oath, employees affirm they have not directly or indirectly given, delivered, paid, offered, or promised to give, deliver, or pay any money, service, or other valuable thing to any person for or on account of, or in connection with their promotion.

The written promotional oath shall also include an acknowledgment indicating the understanding that educational requirements may be necessary for the newly promoted rank.

#### **3 TAKING PROMOTIONAL EXAMS DURING REGULAR SHIFT**

Employees taking a promotional exam or attending an Assessment Center for the department shall do so while off duty. If an exam is given during their regular shift, classified employees shall be allowed to use any time accrued to take the exam. Civilian employees shall be allowed to use any time accrued, except sick time, to take the exam.

#### **4 PROMOTIONAL PHYSICAL**

Prior to promotion, all officers shall submit to a physical examination as required by applicable law.

5 RELATED GENERAL ORDERS

100-06, Department Mission, Values, Ethics, and Guiding Principles  
200-08, Conduct and Authority



Art Acevedo  
Chief of Police