



DE SOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE DUSTIN D. RUNGE

405 Walnut Street

De Soto, Iowa 50069

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RULES OF CONDUCT CITIZEN OBSERVERS

Initial:

____ 1. The officer will exercise discretion in the extent of involvement of the citizen in all situations. Civilians must obey any and all instructions from the officer without question or delay.

____ 2. The officer may decide that the presence of the civilian at a scene is not advisable, in which case the officer will deposit the civilian at a safe location where he/she will return later to resume the observation period.

____ 3. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed immediately prior to or during the observation period, nor will any person report to the observation period under the influence of any intoxicating beverages or drugs.

____ 4. The observer is NOT allowed to carry a firearm or weapon while riding as an observer. This applies to persons licensed to carry a firearm in Iowa as well. Any person found to be in possession of a firearm or illegal weapon during the observation period will have their privileges to participate permanently revoked and be subjected to criminal charges for the violation of any State weapons laws.

____ 5. The observer will not convey by acts or statements that he/she is a police officer or has the powers and authority of a police officer.

____ 6. Observers will refrain from becoming involved in any physical struggle or verbal arguments with any persons encountered by the officer; however, the observer should render assistance to the officer if commanded to do so.

____ 7. The observer is forbidden from becoming involved in any police investigation or from discussing any police investigation with another citizen. The observer will not reveal the identity of any person suspected of an offense, nor will he/she reveal the identity of any victims or witnesses or person detained by the police for any reason.

____ 8. As a guest of the De Soto Police Department, the observer is expected to be attired and groomed in an appropriate business-casual like manner. Shorts, shirts without collars, t-shirts without sleeves, or shirts with inappropriate advertisements or logos are unacceptable. A supervisor has the authority to deny permission for a person to participate in this program if the observer's appearance would impugn the respect and authority of the Department. Observers shall also wear a provided "Civilian Observer" badge in a visible place on their clothing while participating in this program.

____ 9. All civilian observers must have approval from a police supervisor prior to riding with any officer.

____ 10. All civilian observers shall complete a liability of release form prior to their observation time and the completed form shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police. Their reason for wanting to ride shall be stated on the back of the liability waiver form.

____ 11. An observer shall never exit the patrol vehicle on an in-progress call, ANY traffic stop, or at any other time there is a potential threat to their safety. At an officer's discretion they may exit the patrol vehicle on report calls, or other incidents which have no potential for a threat to the observer's safety.

____ 12. When available, civilian observers shall wear departmental body armor.

I have read and understand the rules of conduct that I must follow as a guest of the De Soto Police Department.

Print Name: _____

Participant Signature

Date

Officer Signature / Badge Number

Date

Chief of Police Signature

Approve Yes / No

Date

Partners with the community