

<b>YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>	<b>GENERAL ORDERS</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Motorcycle Operation</b>	<b>NUMBER: GO 2-9B</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2004</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE: July 19, 2018</b>
<b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: NEW</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>  Sheriff
<b>VLEPSC: OPR.01.08</b>	

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12 **POLICY**

13

14 It is the goal of the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office to implement strategies to create a safer

15 community for all citizens. The utilization of a motorcycle as an enforcement and control tool is

16 advantageous in attaining this goal. Deputies must understand the potential and limitations of the

17 motorcycle in its law enforcement application. All personnel operating Sheriff's Office

18 motorcycles shall exercise due regard for the safety of all persons: protection of life is the

19 paramount goal of the Sheriff's Office. No task, call, or incident justifies disregard of public

20 safety. All deputies who operate Sheriff's Office motorcycles will comply with safe driving

21 procedures outlined herein with particular attention to responding to calls for service or engaging

22 in pursuits. Emergency warning devices shall be used consistent with both legal requirements

23 and the safety of the public and Sheriff's Office personnel.

24

25 **PURPOSE**

26

27 To establish the procedures for the operation and use of the Sheriff's Office motorcycles.

28

29 **PROCEDURES**

- 30
- 31 • General Operation
- 32 ○ Motorcycle officers are assigned to the traffic section of the Community Services
- 33 Division and may use the motorcycles for general patrol, radar or selective traffic
- 34 enforcement, escorts, or any functions as authorized by the Sheriff or his designee.
- 35 ○ Sheriff's Office motorcycles shall be operated in accordance with all existing agency
- 36 policies governing vehicle operation.
- 37 ○ Sheriff's Office motorcycles will not be used to transport any riders other than the
- 38 operator.

- 39 ○ Prisoners shall be transported with the assistance of another deputy operating a patrol  
40 vehicle.
- 41 ○ Deputies shall secure the motorcycle by utilizing the steering locking system when  
42 leaving the motorcycle for an extended period of time.
- 43 ○ Deputies shall maintain a constant vigil for potential hazards or conditions which may  
44 adversely affect the safe operation of a motorcycle.
- 45 ○ Deputies shall utilize the issued helmet and keep the chin strap securely fastened at all  
46 times.
- 47
- 48 ● Inclement Weather
- 49 ○ Weather factors such as heavy rain, snow, or icy conditions may restrict the use and  
50 operation of the motorcycles.
- 51 ○ Motorcycles shall not be operated in inclement weather, which in the on-duty  
52 supervisor's opinion, precludes safe operation.
- 53 ○ Inclement weather conditions may include, but not limited to:
- 54     ▪ Snow,
- 55     ▪ Ice,
- 56     ▪ Sleet,
- 57     ▪ Heavy rain,
- 58     ▪ High wind, and
- 59     ▪ Extreme cold or heat.
- 60
- 61 ○ Should a deputy be confronted with precipitation, he or she will, as soon as practical,  
62 utilize the issued rain suit and seek shelter to await passage of the weather.
- 63 ○ If, after a reasonable amount of time, it is apparent to the deputy that the unfavorable  
64 weather conditions will not abate, he/she shall return the motorcycle to the place of  
65 storage and resume patrol in his/her assigned vehicle.
- 66
- 67 ● Equipment
- 68 ○ When operating the motorcycle, deputies shall wear the standard Sheriff's Office  
69 uniform with the following modifications:
- 70     ▪ Reinforced trousers,
- 71     ▪ Riding boots,
- 72     ▪ Issued helmet
- 73     ▪ Gloves (optional),
- 74     ▪ Leather coat (optional),
- 75
- 76 ○ The following issued equipment will be carried and be readily available on all  
77 Sheriff's Office motorcycles:
- 78     ▪ Traffic safety vest,
- 79     ▪ Rain suit,
- 80     ▪ Summons book,
- 81     ▪ Traffic accident pad,
- 82     ▪ Pocket mask and gloves,
- 83     ▪ Radar unit,
- 84     ▪ Emergency Warning Equipment,

85                   ❖ All police motorcycles shall be equipped with emergency red and/or blue  
86                   lights, siren, and radio.  
87

88                   • Driver and Training Requirements

89                   ○ Deputies assigned to operate Sheriff's Office motorcycles must meet the following  
90                   criteria:

- 91                   ▪ Have a minimum of five years' service with the York-Poquoson Sheriff' Office.
- 92                   ▪ Possess a valid Virginia Driver's License with motorcycle endorsement.
- 93                   ▪ Attend and satisfactorily complete an approved large engine motorcycle course  
94                   prior to assignment to the motorcycle.
- 95                   ▪ Have maintained an above average driving record with no more than two (2) at-  
96                   fault preventable and reportable County vehicle accidents within the last five-year  
97                   period.

98  
99                   • Pursuits

100                   ○ The inherent risk associated with high speed pursuits involving motorcycle dictates  
101                   that the following procedures be strictly adhered to:

- 102                   ▪ If a pursuit is initiated by a motorcycle, at the first opportunity, the motorcycle  
103                   operator will surrender the lead to a marked patrol vehicle.
  - 104                   ❖ The motorcycle may continue the pursuit as a secondary vehicle; however, the  
105                   secondary position must be surrendered upon the arrival of a second marked  
106                   patrol vehicle.
- 107                   ▪ All other rules governing pursuits by motorcycles shall be conducted in  
108                   accordance with [GO 2-9, Vehicle Operations](#).
- 109                   ▪ At no time will a motorcycle be used in any type of stationary roadblock.  
110

111  
112                   • Care, Maintenance, and Inspection

- 113                   ○ Care and maintenance of the motorcycles shall be in accordance with agency policies  
114                   regarding vehicle care and maintenance and take home vehicles.
- 115                   ○ The driver will conduct a safety inspection of the motorcycle prior to the beginning of  
116                   each assigned shift.
- 117                   ○ No equipment will be installed on a Sheriff's Office motorcycle unless authorized by  
118                   the Sheriff.
- 119                   ○ No alterations will be made to a Sheriff's Office motorcycle or any issued equipment  
120                   without authorization of the Sheriff.