

<b>YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>	<b>RULES AND REGULATIONS</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Ride-Along Program</b>	<b>NUMBER: RR 1-14</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: May 30, 2019</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE: April 22, 2019</b>
<b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: RR 1-14, March 1, 2003</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b> _____  Sheriff
<b>VLEPSC:</b>	

1 **INDEX WORDS**

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- 3 Citizen observer
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9 **POLICY**

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11 The Ride-Along Program allows citizens to voluntarily accompany deputies and to observe law-

12 enforcement activities to better understand the problems of policing. The observer may request

13 to ride in any area at any time, and with a particular deputy. If convenient to the Sheriff's Office

14 and conditions permit, permission may be granted. The Sheriff's community-oriented policing

15 goals include a commitment to work with the community to solve neighborhood problems and to

16 operate an open, accessible, accountable agency. The Ride-Along Program is consistent with

17 these goals. Safety of law-enforcement personnel and the citizen shall be the primary concern.

18

19 **PURPOSE**

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21 The purpose of this directive is to establish procedures for the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office

22 Ride-Along Program.

23

24 **PROCEDURES**

- 25
- 26 • Citizen Ride-Along Request
    - 27 ○ York County and the City of Poquoson and approved non-resident citizens wishing to
    - 28 ride with a deputy shall complete a [Citizen Ride-Along Request Form](#), and [Ride](#)
    - 29 [Along Release and Waiver Form](#), found in the Power DMS Forms Folder and submit
    - 30 the completed forms to the Sheriff's Office during normal business hours.
      - 31 ▪ Non-York County or City of Poquoson residents shall receive authorization from
      - 32 the Sheriff or his designee to participate in the Citizen Ride-Along program.
      - 33
    - 34 ○ Completed request forms and liability waivers must be returned at least five working
    - 35 days before the desired ride-along date.
      - 36 ▪ Citizens attending the Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy are not required to
      - 37 complete the [Citizen Ride-Along Request Form](#), but shall complete the [Ride-](#)

38 [Along Release and Waiver Form](#) prior to their mandatory Academy participation  
39 ride-along.  
40

- 41 ○ Lieutenants or higher members of the Command Staff may grant permission for  
42 citizens to ride with deputies.
  - 43 ■ A criminal history records check may be required on applicants not known in the  
44 community who wish to participate in the Ride-Along Program.

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46 ● Media Ride-Along Requests

- 47 ○ Members of the news media wishing to do a ride-along with a deputy shall make the  
48 request to the Sheriff through the Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer.
- 49 ○ Members of the media approved for a ride-along by the Sheriff shall complete a [Ride-  
50 Along Release and Waiver](#) prior to the scheduled ride-along.

51  
52 ● Limitations

- 53 ○ No person shall ride unless approval has been granted and the properly completed  
54 waiver and request forms are on file as applicable.
- 55 ○ Approval will be granted for one ride-along annually unless special permission by the  
56 Sheriff or his designee is granted.
- 57 ○ Spouses of sworn personnel may participate in the Ride-Along Program with the  
58 deputy's supervisor approval.
  - 59 ■ The spouse may accompany their husband/wife for a limited period of time,  
60 usually the equivalent of one shift annually.
- 61 ○ No more than one observer shall accompany a deputy at a time.
- 62 ○ No one shall be allowed to observe law-enforcement activities relating to raids or ride  
63 with investigative personnel without specific, advance coordination and approval of  
64 the Sheriff and the Investigations Division Commander.
- 65 ○ Juveniles are prohibited from participating in the Ride-Along Program.

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68 ● Ride-Along Guidelines

- 69 ○ If no specific deputy is requested by name by the observer, the on-duty supervisor  
70 shall appoint the host deputy.
- 71 ○ The observer should be appropriately dressed in either business attire or casual wear  
72 in good taste; if not, ride-along approval may be cancelled by the on-duty supervisor.
- 73 ○ The host deputy shall instruct the observer on the following procedures:
  - 74 ■ Follow the deputy's directions.
  - 75 ■ Appearance in court as a witness may be necessary.
  - 76 ■ The observer may end the ride-along at any time he or she wishes.
  - 77 ■ The deputy may end the ride-along if safety circumstances dictate.
  - 78 ■ The observer must wear a seat belt and shoulder strap when riding in the vehicle.
  - 79 ■ Observers shall identify themselves, if asked, as an authorized citizen observer.
  - 80 ■ Observers shall not be permitted to carry any equipment or wear attire that might  
81 suggest to the public that they are affiliated with the Sheriff's Office, unless  
82 authorized by the Sheriff, such as:
    - 83 ❖ Flashlights,

- 84                   ❖ Cameras,  
85                   ❖ Radios of any type,  
86                   ❖ Tape recorders,  
87                   ❖ Binoculars, etc.  
88                   ❖ Observers shall not carry weapons or restraining devices of any kind.  
89                   ➤ Exceptions may be granted to sworn law-enforcement personnel from  
90                   other agencies.  
91  
92                   ▪ Observers shall not smoke in County vehicles during ride-along participation.  
93  
94                   • Observer Conduct  
95                   ○ Observers shall at all times remain under the complete control of the assigned deputy  
96                   and shall comply with all directions and requests.  
97                   ○ Observers shall not interfere with investigations in any way by conversing with  
98                   victims, suspects, or witnesses, handling evidence or equipment, or participating in  
99                   any enforcement activity unless directed to do so by the host deputy in accordance  
100                   with Section [18.2-463](#), Code of Virginia.  
101  
102                   • Observer safety  
103                   ○ All deputies, while accompanied by an observer, shall use good judgement during  
104                   emergency or pursuit driving, responding to a crimes-in-progress reportedly involving  
105                   violence, or performing a felony vehicle stop.  
106                   ○ If deputies must perform these activities, they shall be cognizant to provide for the  
107                   safety and welfare of the observer to the fullest extent possible.  
108                   ○ When possible, civilian passengers should not be allowed to remain in an emergency  
109                   vehicle during pursuits.  
110                   ○ When dispatched to calls where imminent danger is anticipated, observers shall be  
111                   deposited at a safe location.  
112  
113                   • Arrests, Transporting, Booking  
114                   ○ The observer may accompany the deputy while transporting or booking prisoners.  
115                   ▪ If the deputy believes a problem may arise, the observer should be temporarily  
116                   transferred to another deputy or returned to the point of origin.  
117                   ▪ Observers shall not be permitted to remain with prisoners in the absence of  
118                   deputies.  
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120                   • Ending Ride-Along Tour  
121                   ○ Upon completion of the ride-along, the deputy will return the observer to the Sheriff's  
122                   Office and thank him or her for their interest in observing the activities of the  
123                   Sheriff's Office.  
124                   ○ Deputies should allow the observer a chance to ask questions prior to departing.  
125  
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127                   • Media personnel  
128                   ○ Sheriff's Office personnel shall not authorize the media to enter upon private  
129                   property, nor will the media be allowed to accompany members of the Sheriff's

130 Office onto private property while engaged in any authorized Ride-Along program.  
131 See [RR 1- 13, Media Relations](#), for additional guidance.

- 132     ▪ Under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, media  
133         representatives are prohibited from entering upon private property without the  
134         permission of the owner.
  - 135             ❖ See, [Wilson v. Layne](#) 526 U.S. 603 (1999).
  - 136             ❖ Emergency circumstances that apply to law enforcement personnel do not  
137             apply to media personnel.
    - 138                 ➤ Deputies violating this policy may be held individually liable by the courts  
139                 for Fourth Amendment violations of the property owner’s civil rights.

**YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*CITIZEN RIDE-ALONG REQUEST*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ VA Operator License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time requested for ride-along: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for ride-along request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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-----**FOR AGENCY USE ONLY**-----

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Denied: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized ride-along time and date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy approved to conduct the ride-along: \_\_\_\_\_

Approving Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

173 **YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
174 ***RIDE ALONG RELEASE AND WAIVER***  
175

176 KNOW BY ALL THESE PRESENT, that I \_\_\_\_\_, on my  
177 own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, estate, agents and  
178 assigns, and representatives of any nature whatsoever, for and in consideration of the authorization  
179 and permission to accompany Deputy Sheriffs or any officer of the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office  
180 during the course of their or his duties, which has been granted to me at my voluntary request, after  
181 having been fully advised of the potential hazards of such activity or activities, do hereby WAIVE  
182 AND RELEASE all demands, damages, actions, causes of action, suits and claims of any nature  
183 whatsoever, whether in law or in equity, that I or my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators,  
184 estate, agents and assigns, and representatives of any nature whatsoever might otherwise have against  
185 the County of York, the Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, and each and every deputy, official, member,  
186 employee, agent and attorney thereof and therefore, and his or her heirs, next of kin, executors,  
187 administrators, and estate, on account of my death or injuries, both to person and to property,  
188 whether foreseeable or not, which may occur, directly or indirectly, or develop at any time in the  
189 future as a result of my activities or association with the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, whether in  
190 a vehicle, in the Sheriff's Office, or otherwise in association with the York-Poquoson Sheriff's  
191 Office and deputies and officials thereof in any manner whatsoever.  
192

193 It is expressly agreed and understood that this RELEASE AND WAIVER shall apply for the  
194 express purpose of precluding forever all claims, suits, demands, damages, and causes of action that I  
195 or my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, estate, agents and assigns and representatives of  
196 any nature whatsoever might otherwise assert against any of the aforesaid parties as a result of my  
197 association and activities with the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office during: \_\_\_\_\_.  
198 (Date of ride-along)

199 I hereby declare that the terms of this RELEASE AND WAIVER have been fully read and  
200 understood by me, and freely and voluntarily entered into and accepted by me, and I hereby  
201 acknowledge receipt of a copy of this agreement.

202 In further consideration of the aforesaid authorization and permission granted to me to  
203 accompany a deputy or deputies of the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office at my own request, I hereby  
204 promise and agree to fully comply with all instructions given to me for the purpose of protecting my  
205 personal safety and that of my property. This waiver must be approved by the patrol supervisor.  
206  
207

208 Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
209 (Signature)