Oath of Office for Law Enforcement Officers

"I, __________________________do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be alert and vigilant to enforce the criminal laws of this State; that I will not be influenced in any matter on account of personal bias or prejudice; that I will faithfully and impartially execute the duties of my office as a law enforcement officer according to the best of my skill, abilities, and judgment; so help me, God."

__________________________________
Law Enforcement Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me this_______day of______________, 199__

_____________________________________
Deputy/Asst. Clerk of Superior Court
District Superior Court Judge
Oath of Office for all Officers

"I, ____________________, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me God."

______________________________
Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this __________ day of __________, 199__

_____________________________________
Deputy/Asst. Clerk of Superior Court
District Superior Court Judge
LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear of favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will never engage in acts or corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.
CANONS OF POLICE ETHICS

Article 1. Primary Responsibility of Job

The primary responsibility of the police service, and the individual officer, is the protection of the people of the United States through the upholding of their laws; chief among these is the Constitution of the United States and its amendments. The law enforcement officer always represents the whole of the community and its legally expressed will and is never the arm of any political party or clique.

Article 2. Limitations of Authority

The first duty of a law enforcement officer, as upholder of the law, is to know its bounds upon him in enforcing it. Because he represents the legal will of the community, be it local, state, or federal, he must be aware of the limitations and proscriptions which the people, through law, have placed upon him. He must recognize the genius of the American system of government which gives to no man, groups of men, or institution, absolute power; and he must insure that he, as a prime defender of that system, does not pervert its character.

Article 3. Duty to be Familiar with the Law and with Responsibilities of Self and Other Public Officials

The law enforcement officer shall assiduously apply himself to the study of the principles of the laws which he is sworn to uphold. He will make certain of his responsibilities in the particulars of their enforcement, seeking aid from his superiors in matters of technicality of principle when these are not clear to him; he will make special effort to fully understand his relationship to other public officials, particularly on matters of jurisdiction, both geographically and substantively.

Article 4. Utilization of Proper Means to Gain Proper Ends

The law enforcement officer shall be mindful of his responsibility to pay strict heed to the selection of means in discharging the duties of his office. Violations of law or disregard for public safety and property on the part of the officer are intrinsically wrong; they are self-defeating in that they instill in the public mind a like disposition. The employment of illegal means, no matter how worthy the end, is certain to encourage disrespect for the law and its officers. If the law is to be honored, it must first be honored by those who enforce it.

Article 5. Cooperation with Public Officials in the Discharge of Their Authorized Duties

The law enforcement officer shall cooperate fully with other public officials in the discharge of authorized duties regardless of party affiliation or personal prejudice. He shall be meticulous, however, in assuring himself of the propriety, under the law, of such actions and shall guard against the use of his office or person, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in any improper or illegal action. In any situation open to question, he shall seek authority from his superior officer, giving him a full report of the proposed service or action.

Article 6. Private Conduct
The law enforcement officer shall be mindful of his special identification by the public as an upholder of the law. Laxity of conduct or manner in private life, expressing either disrespect for the law or seeking to gain special privilege, cannot but reflect upon the police officer and the police service. The community and the service require that the law enforcement officer lead the life of a decent and honorable man. Following the career of a policeman gives no man special perquisites. It does give the satisfaction and pride of following and furthering an unbroken tradition of safeguarding the American Republic. The officer who reflects upon this tradition will not degrade it. Rather, he will so conduct his private life that the public will regard him as an example of stability, fidelity and morality.

**Article 7. Conduct Toward the Public**

The law enforcement officer, mindful of his responsibility to the whole community, shall deal with individuals of the community in a manner calculated to instill respect for its laws and its police service. The law enforcement officer shall conduct his official life in a manner such as will inspire confidence and trust. Thus, he will be neither overbearing nor subservient, as no individual citizen has an obligation to stand in awe of him nor a right to command him. The officer will give service where he can, and require compliance with the law. He will do neither from personal preference or prejudice but rather as a duly appointed office of the law discharging his sworn obligation.

**Article 8. Conduct in Arresting and Dealing with Law Violators**

The law enforcement officer shall use his powers of arrest strictly in accordance with the law and with due regard to the rights of the citizens concerned. His office gives him no right to persecute the violator nor to mete out punishment of the offense. He shall, at all times, have a clear appreciation of his responsibilities and limitations regarding detention of the violator; he shall conduct himself in such a manner as will minimize the possibility of having to use force. To this end he shall cultivate a dedication to the service of the people and the equitable upholding of their laws, whether in the handling of law violators or in dealing with the law-abiding.

**Article 9. Gifts and Favors**

The law enforcement officer, representing government, bears the heavy responsibility of maintaining in his own conduct, the honor and integrity of all government institutions. He shall, therefore, guard against placing himself in a position in which any person can expect special consideration or in which the public can reasonably assume that special consideration is being given. Thus, he should be firm in refusing gifts, favors, or gratuities, large or small, which can, in the public mind, be interpreted as capable of influencing his judgment in the discharge of his duties.

**Article 10. Presentation of Evidence**

The law enforcement officer shall be concerned equally in the prosecution of the wrongdoer and the defense of the innocent. He shall ascertain what constitutes evidence and shall present such evidence impartially and without malice. In so doing, he will ignore social, political, and all other distinctions among the persons involved, strengthening the tradition of the reliability and integrity of an officer's work.

The law enforcement officer shall take special pains to increase his perception and skill of observation, mindful that in many situations his is the sole impartial testimony to the facts of the case.
Article 11. *Attitude Toward Profession*

The law enforcement officer shall regard the discharge of his duties as a public trust and recognize his responsibility as a public servant. By diligent sturdy and sincere attention to self improvement, he shall strive to make the best possible application of science to the solution of crime, and in the field of human relationships, he shall strive for effective leadership and public influence in matters affecting public safety. He shall appreciate the importance and responsibility of his office and hold police work to be an honorable profession rendering valuable service to his community and his country.
INSTRUCTOR NOTE: The following is an Ethical Inventory which can be answered by students individually. Direct the students to number a piece of paper 1 through 10 and have them answer the questions, True or False, as you read them aloud individually. Following this, list the scale below on the board. DO NOT hand this form out as an individual exercise or ask students to reveal their results.

1. I have never cheated on a test or examination of any kind.
2. I have not lied to anyone about anything in the last month.
3. I have never passed off another's work as my own.
4. I would never knowingly accept overpayment in change from a clerk.
5. I have never attempted to cheat the telephone company.
6. I have never been paid for work I didn't do.
7. I have never taken any item from a hotel/motel not intended to be kept by guests.
8. I have never overstated a claim to an insurance firm.
9. I have never failed to tell the whole truth when filling out my income tax forms.
10. I have never knowingly misrepresented any item in order to make a sale.

Count the number of statements you marked as True. Use the scale as follows:

9 to 10 - Highly developed conscience
7 to 8 - Above-average conscience
5 to 6 - Average conscience
3 to 4 - Below-average conscience
1 to 2 - Conscience needs help!
### Instructor Qualities

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<td>2. Gestures</td>
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<td>8. Rate - Too Fast or Too Slow</td>
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<td>9. Eye Contact</td>
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SUBTOTAL __ __ __ __ __
II Organization And Presentation

1. Were the major objectives of the course made clear? .......... 1 2 3 4 5
2. How well was the class presentation planned and organized? .... 1 2 3 4 5
3. Was the course material clearly explained? ...................... 1 2 3 4 5
4. Did test questions fairly reflect the course content? .......... 1 2 3 4 5
5. Was class time well used? ....................................... 1 2 3 4 5
6. Do you feel that your questions were adequately answered by the instructor? ................................. 1 2 3 4 5
7. Do you believe the instructor encouraged relevant student involvement in the class? ...................................... 1 2 3 4 5
8. Did the instructor react to student viewpoints different from his in a positive manner? ................................. 1 2 3 4 5
9. How would you describe the instructor’s attitude in class toward you, the student? ................................. 1 2 3 4 5
10. How would you rate the instructor’s quality and use of training aids? ... 1 2 3 4 5

TOTAL ACROSS ____+____+____+____+

CUMULATIVE TOTAL ______________________

INSTRUCTOR RATING FORMULA:

CUMULATIVE TOTAL ÷ 20 = INSTRUCTOR RATING

Comments:
_______________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________