



Vehicle Operation

I. INTRODUCTION

Officers of the Ridgely Police Department will, in the performance of their duties, operate their assigned patrol vehicle in a manner consistent with safety and in accordance with the provisions of the law.

II. ROUTINE VEHICLE OPERATION

- A. When RPD vehicles are unattended, vehicles will be shut off, keys removed, and all doors locked. Unattended means that the officer is not in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle, and that they do not have the vehicle in their immediate observation.
- B. Except as necessary in the performance of official duties and in emergencies, members of the officer's family or persons not connected to RPD, other than officers of RPD or another enforcement agency, shall not be transported in patrol vehicles.
- C. While on duty or in an off duty capacity, officers operating or riding in vehicles owned by the Town of Ridgely will utilize those safety restraint systems (lap belt and shoulder harness) provided by the manufacturer.
- D. Children will be restrained by use of approved child safety devices in accordance to the Maryland Transportation Article. There will be extreme circumstances where a transport is necessary and an approved safety seat is not available. In this case, when an emergency exists, the child will be restrained using the safety equipment provided by the manufacturer for the occupant seated in the center of the rear seat. If the child is so small that the manufacturer's safety equipment would not be suitable, the transport, in emergency situations, will be made keeping the safety of the child in mind.
- E. On- duty intrastate travel outside of Caroline County must be approved by the Chief of Police or his designee. Out of state on- duty use of patrol vehicles must be approved by the Chief.
- F. Personnel will not operate a patrol vehicle while on sick leave. If an officer goes on sick leave while on duty they may, if capable, drive the vehicle to their residence.

General Order No. 7-2 (Cont.)

III. EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION

A. Definition of a Life and Death Emergency - This instances in which the presence of an officer will actually save a life, and wherein seconds could make a difference. It shall also include those instances wherein another officer has placed a call for assistance, and those instances where a life- threatening crime is in progress or has just occurred.

B. Operating Speeds During Life and Death Emergencies - Posted speed limits may be exceeded, consistent with safety and statutory exemptions granted to an authorized emergency vehicle when the vehicle is making audible and visual signals. The audible and visual signals will be supplemented by lighted headlamps.

C. The officer will determine the proper operation of the patrol vehicle from the information received from Communications, the Complainant, or another officer having knowledge of the incident he is responding to. The officer may exceed the posted speed limit and operate his patrol vehicle during an emergency response if the requirements of Sections 21-106 and 21-201 of the Transportation Article are met.

D. The operation of a patrol vehicle in an emergency response is usually prompted by one of the following requests for assistance:

1. A Police Officer needs help. All instances where the safety of an officer is directly threatened.
2. All situations where there are reasonable grounds to believe human life is in peril and where the police have the PRIMARY responsibility for acting.
3. Other instances where an emergency response could prevent the loss of life or serious injury.

E. All other calls for service, the officer should respond within the posted speed limit. emergency equipment may be used in certain instances to facilitate response, and to expedite movement through traffic if the officer considers it appropriate.