



CHEVY CHASE
VILLAGE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Police Chief: John Fitzgerald

GENERAL ORDER: 5-62; MOBILE AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT
IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AFIS)

DATE: 3/11/2015 Pages: 2 ♦ New ♦ Amended ♦ Rescinds

I. MOBILE AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AFIS)

The Mobile Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) consists of a handheld fingerprint scanner designed to capture images of the index fingers of the right and left hands. The unit will maintain the images only until they are sent, via the MDC, for search.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines related to the use of the mobile Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The use of the mobile scanner is intended to provide law enforcement personnel with an automated method of identifying persons who cannot provide other means of identification or to provide a verification of the presented identification documents. The search is conducted against law enforcement fingerprint databases. Officers are permitted to use the mobile AFIS only for a legitimate work-related law enforcement purpose.

III. POLICY

The use of the mobile fingerprint scanner shall be for law enforcement purposes only and done in a manner consistent with local, State, and Federal laws, training and this policy. Only those officers who have lawful access to CJIS and who have been trained in the use of the mobile AFIS will operate the scanners.

For a legitimate law enforcement purpose, Mobile AFIS scanners may be used to identify (or verify the identification of):

- Suspicious persons;
- Unconscious persons;
- Unknown 'found' persons or persons in need of assistance who are unable to identify themselves (persons with dementia; mentally challenged persons; young children);
- Deceased persons; and
- Persons who are willing to be identified for a law enforcement reason (to be issued a citation or to prove their relationship to someone for a legitimate purpose) but are unable to provide any photo ID.

IV. CONSENT PRIOR TO SCANNING; FORCE IS PROHIBITED

- A. Voluntary consent must be obtained from all persons who are conscious and capable of giving consent prior to scanning their fingerprints. This consent can be verbal or in writing. A person may revoke their consent at any time during the scanning process. If the person refuses to allow their fingerprints to be scanned, no scanning will be conducted.
- B. If an individual is under arrest, is unconscious, or is otherwise incapable of providing consent, request for consent is not required (you may verbally direct them to provide fingerprints without asking permission), however, **officers are prohibited from using force of any kind to obtain a fingerprint scan.**

V. PROCEDURE

- A. One mobile AFIS device is assigned to each marked patrol vehicle. At the beginning of their shift, officers will obtain the AFIS assigned to their marked cruiser and the officer will keep it with them (either in the cruiser or on their person) for the duration of their shift.
- B. Officers who are assigned to drive an unmarked vehicle for the duration of their shift are not required to take an AFIS on patrol with them.
- C. At the end of their shift, officers must return the AFIS to the charging location at the station, and connect the charging cable to the AFIS device.
- D. When using a mobile fingerprint scanner in the field, it is recommended that two or more officers be present at the stop before the unit is utilized. This is to ensure the safe handling and control of the individual during the fingerprint scanning process.
- E. The system will search the fingerprint images against law enforcement databases. If the individual has been previously fingerprinted and is in the regional databases, a positive notification, or 'hit,' should be returned.

- F. A 'hit' simply means that the person has been *identified*; it does NOT mean that a warrant exists for the person and it is NOT probable cause for an arrest. Officers must use the person's identifying information to query METERS, NCIC and other relevant databases to determine if the person is wanted.
- G. As with any return that indicates that the person is wanted on a warrant, officers must first confirm the warrant with the originating agency (via ECC) prior to taking any law enforcement action on the 'hit.'
- H. Officers shall utilize the mobile AFIS in conformance with the training on the device and with this policy.