

Ethics Training for Law Enforcement

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The lack of ethical decision-making in police academies and in the re-training of police officers results in the mistrust of the entire law enforcement community. Police officers have a lot of responsibility and are held at a higher standard. Police officers face many ethical dilemmas in the field every day. In many situations, departments do not document violations of ethical behavior.

A needs assessment was conducted, surveying 383 police departments in Florida. Results showed that the four hours of ethics training, required by the Criminal Justice and Training Commission to be taught in academies, is inadequate. Despite what is taught in academies and in re-training, an alarming number of unethical acts are being committed. Chief executives, though ultimately responsible for their department's performance, should demand that the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission mandate additional training in ethical decision-making.