



Charging and Alternatives Policy

Purpose:

To ensure the EPS lays charges that result in positive return on police effort and are appropriate in the circumstances. This policy applies to sworn members and sets out the principles governing charging and the alternatives to charging.

Statement of Principle:

The EPS is committed to the laying of quality charges that lead to positive return on police effort and enhance support from the community and the courts.

Definitions:

Definitions listed in this section apply to this document only with no implied or intended organization-wide or EPS Policy and Procedure Manual wide use.

Identification Processing – Involves collecting a person's fingerprints, photograph, and information on their physical appearance.

Release Document – Includes a Summons, Appearance Notice, Undertaking or Release Order (issued by the judiciary). A release document compels the accused to appear at a later date in court and / or for identification processing.

Policy Statement:

The EPS supports programs that act as alternatives to charging, or work alongside the judicial system, to address the effects of crime.

Sworn members who have reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed must properly exercise their discretion in every case in charging, or not charging, a subject based on the material circumstances of the case.

Sworn members must ensure individuals issued a release document for committing, or arrested and charged with, an indictable or hybrid offence are identification processed in accordance with the *Identification of Criminals Act*.