



Investigative Aids and Resources Policy

Purpose:

To set out the principles governing the use of investigative aids and resources that assist the EPS members during the investigative process.

Statement of Principle:

The EPS endeavors to acquire the most appropriate, effective and up-to-date investigative aids and resources to further the investigative process and bring quality resolution to the investigation of crimes.

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.

Investigative Aids and Resources – For the purposes of this policy, investigative aids and resources represent a broad range of any means that furthers and enhances the investigative process. Examples of which include, but not limited to, covert operations, confidential human sources, electronic surveillance devices, among others.

Policy Statement:

- A.** EPS investigating members are encouraged to use available investigative aids and resources, appropriate to the circumstance, to progress the investigation by assisting in:
 - 1. detecting criminal activity,
 - 2. gathering evidence to identify, locate and arrest/apprehend offender(s), and
 - 3. presenting evidence admissible before the court.
- B.** When using investigative aids and resources, investigating members must be attentive to and evaluate the following risks:
 - 1. invasion of privacy and any other legal limitations,
 - 2. disclosure of information, and



3. potential liabilities.

- C.** To be used lawfully, investigating members must obtain the appropriate supervisory permission and/or judicial warrants prior to using specific investigative aids and resources.
- D.** When applying investigative aids, investigating members must document events in a timely manner and thoroughly, maintain records, and ensure records' availability for disclosure, if applicable.
- E.** Members must use investigative resources for their intended investigative purpose only.
- F.** Only authorized personnel will be allowed to use EPS aids and resources for investigative purposes.
- G.** The effectiveness of investigative aids and resources cannot be achieved in isolation; it largely depends on the proper investigation and resulting justification by the investigating member, the availability of evidence, the cooperativeness of witnesses, among other factors.