

SPECIAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject
Photographs, Video Recordings, and Audio Recordings of Crime Scenes
Number
SO-11-20
Effective Date
October 3, 2011
Rescinds:
TT 08-048-11, Effective August 15, 2011
Related to:
GO 304.08 (Collection of Physical Evidence; Utilization of the Crime Scene examination section and Crime Scene Search Officers)
GO 601.02 (Preservation of Potentially Discoverable Material)
GO 304.13 (The Use of Photographs in Criminal Investigations)

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I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this order is to outline procedures for taking photographs, video recordings, and audio recordings at crime scenes.

II. REGULATIONS

- A. Whether using MPD-issued or personal equipment, members shall only take photographs, video recordings and audio recordings of crime scenes, victims, and witnesses for official law enforcement purposes.
- B. Members **shall not** copy, print, e-mail, display, distribute or in any other manner permit photographs, video recordings or audio recordings to be viewed or released for other than official law enforcement purposes.
- C. Members who take photographs, video recordings, or audio recordings of crime scenes, victims or witnesses, whether using MPD-issued or personal equipment, shall adhere to the procedures outlined in GO-SPT-601.01 (Recording, Handling, and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department) and GO-SPT-601.02 (Preservation of Potentially Discoverable Material).

- D. Members shall adhere to GO-SPT-302.08 [Metropolitan Police Department Wide Area Network (MPDNet)] regarding posting crime scene photographs and other information on social network sites (e.g., Facebook, Myspace).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy L. Lanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

CLL:PAB:MOC:CC