

**Jasper County Sheriff's Office
Law Enforcement
Policies and Procedures**

Subject: Racial & Bias Profiling	Policy Number: 02.16
Issue Date: January 1, 2009	Revision Date: November 1, 2014
Approval Authority Title and Signature: Sheriff Mitchel Newman	

POLICY:

Jasper County Sheriff's Office enforces the law in a proactive manner and aggressively investigates suspected violations. Enforcement actions are made in a responsible and professional manner, without the use of racial or bias based profiling.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Racial or Bias Profiling** - The interdiction, stopping, detention, or other unequal treatment of any person based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, religious affiliation, national origin, or any combination thereof. These are not factors in determining *reasonable suspicion* for a stop, or for determining *probable cause* for an arrest. This applies to both traffic and pedestrian stops. The primary factor to consider is whether *an observable offense was committed*.
- **Race or Ethnicity** – Of a particular decent, including, but not limited to, Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American.
- **Pedestrian Stop** – An interaction between a deputy and an individual who is being temporarily detained for the purpose of a criminal inquiry in which the individual is not under arrest.
- **Traffic Stop** – A deputy who stops a motorist for a violation of a law or traffic violation.

Examples of Bias Based Profiling may include:

1. Stopping a particular driver who is speeding in a stream of traffic where other drivers are speeding because of the driver's apparent race, ethnicity or national origin.
2. Detaining the driver of a vehicle based on the determination that a person of that race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, religious affiliation, or national origin is unlikely to own or possesses that specific make or model of vehicle.

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3. Detaining an individual based on a bias profile that an individual does not belong in a specific area or place.

Two Principles for a Law Enforcement Agency:

1. Deputies of this agency do not use racial stereotypes as factors in selecting whom to stop and search. However, deputies may use *race* in conjunction with other known profile factors
2. Race or ethnicity is not normally a profiling factor as it pertains to witness or victim credibility.

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. Two fundamental rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Constitution of this State are *equal protection under the law* and *freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures* by government agents.
2. Employees of this agency do not engage in bias based profiling.
3. This policy does not inhibit or preclude deputies from offering assistance to anyone who appears to be in need of assistance, ill, lost, or confused.
4. This policy does not inhibit or preclude deputies from stopping someone suspected of suspicious activity, violation, breach of the peace, or crimes based upon observed actions and/or information received about the person's actions.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION:

Complaints alleging racial or bias based profiling are taken seriously by this agency. The taking of a complaint, investigating, and final disposition are processed in accordance with policy *Internal Compliance Enforcement – ICE*.

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