



BWC Policies: 8 Important Issues For Chiefs and Sheriffs

A robust BWC policy is the backbone of the SRT BWC Program. Having a comprehensive policy that is based on a department's philosophy assists with transparency both internally and externally.

Here are the eight most important areas to consider based on research that examined policies from previous BWC grantees. If your agency still requires a policy, the Policy Wizard found [here](#), incorporates these issues.

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference

Kay Bailey Hutchison Conference Center, Dallas, TX

October 15-18, 2022

1. **Activation/Deactivation** – Many agencies mandate specific types of encounters where activation and deactivation should occur. These vary by agency, but many allow for discretionary decisions by officers under certain circumstances, and such authority has increased steadily over time. Most agencies allow for temporary deactivation of the BWC during specific circumstances (e.g., during strip searches or tactical discussions).

2. **Citizen Notification** – Most policies do not explicitly mandate that officers notify citizens of the presence of the BWC, or that the officers are recording the encounter.

3. **Officer Review** – Nearly all the policies allowed officers to review their own BWC footage for routine reports. In terms of critical incidents (e.g., officer-involved shootings), most agencies allow officers to view video of the incident before making a statement.

4. **Supervisor Review** – Most agencies permit supervisors to review BWC footage for administrative purposes, such as the investigation of citizen complaints and use of force. Most agencies give supervisors the authority to review officers' BWC footage for compliance and for general performance review. A majority of the policies reviewed suggest or mandate that supervisor review officer BWCs on a monthly basis.

5. **Off-Duty Assignment** – The trend for agencies to require officers to wear BWCs while in off-duty assignments has steadily increased over time.

6. **Activation During Demonstrations** – Most agencies do not have a policy specifically for BWC use during public demonstrations, however that trend is changing and officers are directed to use their BWCs during specific situations occurring during a protest or demonstration.

7. **Specialized Units Wearing BWCs** – Officers who work in special units or non-patrol assignments are encouraged to use BWC. A smaller number of those agencies mandate BWCs for some specialty assignments (e.g., SWAT, investigations, execution of search warrant).

8. **Video Release of Critical Incidents** – Very few agencies have a set policy for public release of BWC footage involving critical incident. But state laws may dictate the need to release footage.

Learn more information [here](#).

Grants Administration

We continue to send out policy completion certificates who have successfully completed the policy review process, submitted all of their paperwork, and who have an executed contract.

Payments are being processed via direct deposit. For those who have not successfully completed the policy review process or have outstanding paperwork, the SRTBWC team will be contacting you. In addition, monthly reporting has also begun and reports are due on the 15th of each month (today!) If you have not done so, please submit your reports online in the grant administration portal.



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