



CARROLLTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

“The mission of the Carrollton Police Department is to proactively protect our community while treating all we encounter with professionalism, dignity, and respect.”

The body-worn camera is an “on-the-body” audio and video recording system assigned to Carrollton Police Department personnel as an additional means of documenting specific incidents in the field. The goal of the BWC system is to provide an additional layer of documentation for events, actions, conditions, and statements made during critical incidents and to improve reports, collection of evidence, and testimony in court. Specific purposes of the body-worn cameras (BWC) include, but are not limited to:

- Capturing crimes in-progress, whether perpetrated against Carrollton Police Department (CPD) personnel or the community, and to maintain this evidence for presentation in court;
- Documenting initial department response, the discovery of evidentiary items, and the actions of the Department pursuant to an investigation;
- Aiding in the documentation of victim, witness, or suspect statements pursuant to a criminal investigation and the on-scene response and/or document advisement of rights, if applicable; and
- Serving as a training and performance tool when such documentation pertains to an ongoing professional training opportunity.

CPD Personnel assigned to field assignments shall make every effort to activate the BWC to record all law enforcement related contacts. The record mode of the camera shall be activated prior to actual contact with the citizen (victim/witness/suspect), or as soon as safely possible, and continue recording until the contact is concluded. Law enforcement related contacts include, but are not limited to the following: traffic stops, pedestrian stops, field interviews, vehicle impounds, issuing citations, detentions, arrest, persons present at dispatched calls who are accused of crimes, investigative interviews, and consensual encounters.

Citizens have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their homes. However, when CPD personnel are lawfully present in a home (for example – warrant, consent, or exigent circumstances) in the course of official duties, there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. When conducting interviews of individuals inside of their home and related to a call for service (for example on a noise disturbance or investigation call) personnel should restrict their recordings to just the interactions with the involved parties and should not utilize the BWC to capture images of the inside of the residence unless it is directly related to their legitimate law enforcement purpose.



BWCs shall not be used to record non-work related activity, and shall not be activated in places where persons have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as locker rooms, dressing rooms, or restrooms unless the officer is engaged in an official law enforcement function. Unless deemed evidentiary in nature, and directly related to a criminal investigation, when possible, CPD personnel should avoid recording exposed areas of the body that could cause embarrassment or humiliation, such as an exposed breast, groin, etc.

CPD personnel, on occasion, contact patients (victims/witnesses/suspects) in hospitals and shall not record patients during medical, psychological evaluations by a clinician or similar professional, or during treatment. CPD personnel shall be sensitive to patients' rights to privacy when in a hospital or medical facility setting and attempt to avoid recording persons other than the victim, witness, or suspect. Additionally, personnel shall not record while in a facility whose primary purpose is to provide psychiatric services unless responding to a dispatched call involving a suspect who is still present or when transporting an arrestee to a psychiatric facility.

When interviewing victims and witnesses, CPD personnel shall comply with all recording requirements however, if the victim or witness refuse to provide a statement with the recorder turned on, CPD personnel may shut off the recorder and document in their report that the BWC was turned off and the reason why.

Supervisory personnel shall ensure that BWC devices are utilized in accordance with current policy and procedures and that all cameras are placed into the Evidence Transfer System at the conclusion of their shift. On at least a quarterly basis, supervisors will randomly review BWC recordings to ensure that the equipment is operating properly and that officers are using the devices appropriately and in accordance with policy and to identify any areas in which additional training or guidance is required.

All recordings related to any criminal proceeding, claim filed, pending litigation, or an administrative investigation/personnel complaint, shall be preserved until that matter is resolved and/or in accordance with the law, or which period of time is greater. At a minimum, all recordings will be retained for a period of 120 days unless marked as evidence and associated with a criminal investigation. Digital evidence captured by BWC shall be treated as official investigative records and handled pursuant to existing Department policy and procedures.

