



MSI Law Enforcement Risk Analysis



New Jersey Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2022-1 Update to Body-Worn Camera Policy

On January 19, 2022, Acting New Jersey Attorney General Andrew Bruck, issued [Law Enforcement Directive Number 2022-1, Update to Body-Worn Camera Policy](#). This is the third directive issued by the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General addressing body-worn cameras (BWCs) since the initial directive issued in 2015.

It is well understood that agency policies are not a "one size fits all" and that a well-crafted policy needs to reflect each specific agency's unique structure, core values, and priorities. Although Directive 2022-1 outlines the mandates, law enforcement leaders who simply place an agency cover sheet or memo on such a directive may leave many officers unsure of how they should operate at their agency to meet the specified requirements. For example, Directive 2022-1 directs in Section 3.8 that every agency shall "designate one or more training officers and shall establish a training program." Additionally, Directive 2022-1 contains numerous terms that are not defined or instances where it is specified that an officer "may" perform a certain task. The placing of a cover sheet on Directive 2022-01 will likely not result in developing a training program or adequately addressing key definitions and tasks.

Agency leaders must update their policies and procedures to reflect the changes announced in this Attorney General Directive. A comprehensive agency policy should serve as the roadmap for every agency member to perform their duties in a safe, legal, and consistent manner. This update may present an opportunity for agency leaders to review their existing body camera program to determine if additional changes are needed to their policy, procedures, or training program. This Risk Analysis is not a complete review of the entire 2022-01 Directive. This analysis identifies numerous areas where agency leaders may wish to closely analyze, discuss considerations with their municipal attorney, and ensure their agency training programs and policies address areas of ambiguity to reduce the likelihood of inconsistency involving BWCs among agency personnel.

Please do not hesitate to contact a J.A. Montgomery Consulting Law Enforcement Team member if we can be of any assistance or provide additional resources.

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