

POLICE OFFICER MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

State of South Dakota minimum standards for employment:

- (1) Is a citizen of the United States;
- (2) Is at least 21 years of age at time of appointment;
- (3) Has fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement officer;
- (4) Is of good moral character;
- (5) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or has a high school equivalency certificate acceptable to the commission;
- (6) Is examined by a licensed physician who certifies, on forms prescribed by the commission, that the applicant is able to perform the duties of a law enforcement officer;
- (7) Is interviewed in person by the hiring agency or its designated representative before employment. The interview must include questions to determine the applicant's general suitability for law enforcement service, appearance, personality, temperament, ability to communicate, and other characteristics reasonably necessary to the performance of the duties of a law enforcement officer;
- (8) Takes the oath of office as required by SDCL 9-14-7 or 3-1-5. The oath may be taken before the nearest available judge of a court of record;
- (9) Has not unlawfully used any prescribed drug, controlled substance, or marijuana within one year before the time of application for certification;
- (10) Is eligible to reapply for certification, if the person has for any reason failed to successfully complete the basic law enforcement training program;
- (11) Has not had his certification revoked, voluntarily surrendered certification, had an application for certification refused, or been dismissed from the basic training program, unless the commission upon application declares the person eligible for employment or certification.

Departmental requirements necessary for meeting qualifications will include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Applicants shall be in good physical condition with weight in proportion to physique and the ability to satisfactorily perform the physical duties of a police officer.
- (2) Applicants must pass a written exam and a physical agility screening as noted in Recruitment Directive.

- (3) Possession of at least 20/100 vision in each eye, corrected to 20/20 in each eye with corrective lenses.
 - (4) Depth perception and color perception must be normal as determined by an optometric examination.
 - (5) Hearing, using the average of the three readings at 500, 1000, and 3000 Hz, the average decibel loss per ear must be no worse than 25 decibels for each ear uncorrected.
 - (6) The applicant shall be free of any chronic disease or organic or functional defect, as determined by a medical examination, which would impair performance of the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodation.
 - (7) Applicants will be required to undergo a psychological screening process, which evaluates their suitability to perform as a police officer.
 - (8) Applicant has not become ineligible for employment or certification as a law enforcement officer in any other state, as a result of any proceedings involving any revocation, suspension, surrender of, or resignation or dismissal from certification, employment, or training, unless the commission, upon application, declares the person eligible for employment or certification in South Dakota.
 - (9) Possession of or ability to obtain a South Dakota driver's license.
 - (10) Applicant's driving history will be evaluated to determine any pattern of poor driving behavior, with particular regard to recent experience and seriousness of respective violations.
 - (11) Applicants must pass a comprehensive background investigation, which includes making inquiries to the applicant's family and neighbors, past and present.
 - (12) Submit to alcohol and drug screening when mandated by the Department.
 - (13) Successfully complete a field training program and a one-year probationary period.
 - (14) Applicant's financial history will be evaluated to determine any pattern of irresponsibility.
- The applicant should not have a history involving any incident or crime that may indicate a lack of self-discipline, unwillingness or inability to cooperate or a disregard for the rights of others.