



City of Tacoma
Police Department

DRUG USAGE STANDARDS

It is common for candidates to have experimented with or casually used controlled substances/illegal drugs in their past. However, any use over the allowed standards may be disqualifying. Each category mentioned below includes all derivatives of these controlled substances.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE: Except for marijuana, each applicant must be drug-free for a minimum of (2) years before this application for all categories of the controlled substances listed below. Any use within the two (2) year guideline will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Any illegal drug possession or usage after applying, while employed, or after being employed by a law enforcement agency (including military law enforcement) is disqualifying.

More than five (5) uses of any individual drug or a combination of drugs that exceeds eight (8) total usages may be disqualifying. Past drug usage will be confirmed by a background investigation and a polygraph examination.

Marijuana:

Usage while actively seeking employment as a Police Officer is disqualifying.

Amphetamines:

No use for the last two (2) years.

Steroids (excludes those prescribed by a doctor):

No use for the last two (2) years.

Cocaine:

No use for the last two (2) years.

Hallucinogens:

No use for the last two (2) years.

Club Drugs (Ecstasy. Ketamine. GHB. and MDMA. including Rohypnol):

NO use for the last two (2) years. (Unless possession was involuntary; applicant victimized).

Opiates (non-prescribed). Heroin. Morphine:

NO use for the last two (2) years.

Sniffing Inhalants/Solvents:

NO use for the last two (2) years.

To create a safe and secure environment in which to live, work, and visit by working together with the community, enforcing the law in a fair and impartial manner, preserving the peace and order in our neighborhoods, and safeguarding our constitutional guarantees.



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Any other illegal drugs:

No use for the last two (2) years.

Any use of prescription medication prescribed to someone other than the applicant can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Engaging in the distribution or sale of a controlled substance for financial gain, while under the age of 18 years old, including but not limited to delivery or trafficking, may be subject to disqualification on a case-by-case basis.

Automatic Disqualifiers:

- Manufacturing of any illegal drug.
- Distribution/sales of an illegal substance for financial gain (includes deliver, trafficking) while 18 years of age or older.
- Administering any drug to another without their knowledge or consent (drugging).

Note: While this list is not all-inclusive, use of any controlled substance not listed here will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Signed by: Chris Karl 02/18/2025
Assistant Chief Chris Karl Date