
LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP# P-260

PAGE # 1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE INVENTORY

INDEX AS: VEHICLE IMPOUND/INVENTORY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/30/2005

REVISED DATE:

I. PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines concerning the inventory of impounded vehicles and;

- A. To prevent the possible theft of the owner's valuables;
- B. To protect the officers and the department from false claims that valuables were damaged, lost or stolen;
- C. To protect the officers and the public from potentially dangerous instrumentalities;
- D. And, if there is reason to suspect that the vehicle may be stolen, to determine if it is, in fact, stolen.

II SCOPE:

This policy shall apply to the inventory of all impounded vehicles that are towed or impounded.

III. DEFINITION:

As stated in *Pierce v State*, the Georgia Court of Appeals said, "Inventory searches have two purposes: {1} To protect the vehicle and the property in it, and {2} To safeguard the police or other officers from claims of lost possessions.

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SOP# P-260

PAGE # 2

IV POLICY:

Deputies shall conduct a vehicle inventory on all impounded or towed vehicles according to the following guideline:

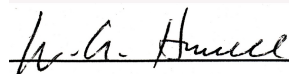
- A. As of this date, every officer who lawfully impounds a vehicle will make a detailed inventory of the contents of that vehicle.
- B. In conducting the inventory, the officer will unlock, open and inspect the glove compartment, the trunk, the console, the tops of seats, under the front seats, the floor, any containers (whether open or closed), and any other location in which it may be reasonably expected that the owner or occupant of the vehicle may have placed items of personal property.

V. DOCUMENTATION:

Deputies shall complete the inventory form at the time of inventory procedure and provide copies of the inventory form to the following:

- Wrecker service
- Driver of impounded vehicle
- Department

Departmental copy shall be turned in on date of inventory with daily report to Shift Supervisor. The Captain will be responsible for forwarding Departmental Copy to Administration for filing.


W. A. HARRELL
SHERIFF

09/30/2005

EFFECTIVE DATE