



DIRECTIVE: O-17-21

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/09/2021

REFERENCE: MN STAT 169.4581, Replaces O-17-99

APPENDIX: None

DISTRIBUTION: All Conservation Officers

This directive is for division use only and does not modify or supersede any law. Violations of this directive may form the basis for departmental administrative action. This directive should not be viewed as creating a higher standard of safety or care in any evidentiary sense and should not apply to any criminal or civil proceeding except civil proceedings related to departmental administrative action.

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the MN DNR Enforcement Division to respond to allegations of criminal conduct which occur within our jurisdiction on school buses. The division shall work with local law enforcement and consult school officials, transportation personnel, parents, and students when responding to these incidents to protect student safety and deal appropriately with those who violate the law. This directive recognizes that responding to reports of alleged criminal conduct on school buses is the responsibility of this division in cooperation with any other law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the alleged offense. This policy is not intended to interfere with or replace school disciplinary policies that relate to student misconduct on school buses. Criminal investigations that occur on school buses shall be turned over to the jurisdictional law enforcement agency as soon as feasible.

II. PROCEDURE

Officers shall:

- A. Respond to calls for assistance from any citizen, school, or bus transportation company official as they may pertain to criminal conduct on school buses;

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- B. Issue citations, release pending further investigation, or apprehend and transport individuals committing crimes on school buses, to the extent authorized by law;**
- C. Investigate reports of crimes committed on school buses and immediately turn over to local law enforcement when appropriate;**
- D. Create an incident report in the division's records management system;**
- E. Follow through with any other investigation necessary to prepare a case pertaining to criminal conduct on school buses as requested by the prosecuting attorney; and**
- F. Provide information to the school regarding the incident as required or authorized by law.**

By Authority of:

Rodmen Smith

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Smith
Date: 2021.04.07 10:07:55 -05'00'

**COL Rodmen Smith
Chief Conservation Officer/Division Director
Division of Enforcement**