

Hardee County Sheriff's Office



Arnold Lanier
Sheriff

BIAS-BASED PROFILING

A Guide for Community Education and Awareness

This brochure is designed to educate the public on the issue of bias-based profiling to include what it is and what to do if you believe you have been a victim of bias-based profiling.

To our Residents, Business Owners, Property Owners, Workers, Visitors and Commuters

We are here to protect the community. Law enforcement officers are required to use skills developed through observation, training and experience in order to identify suspicious circumstances, unusual occurrences and violations of law (county ordinance, criminal and traffic), to act according to the situation. Often times as we patrol the streets, roads, and highways of our county, we come in contact with people who, according to our training, experience, and knowledge, are in a place or are acting in a way to make us believe that a crime was committed, is about to be committed or is in the process of being committed. This proactive approach aids in the detection and apprehension of criminals, maintains the safety of our streets, roads, and highways, and protects our citizens and community from crime.

We want to do the right thing. Discriminatory enforcement practices can alienate our citizens, foster distrust, invite media scrutiny, legislative action and judicial intervention, and potentially lead to allegations of constitutional and civil rights violations. As we perform our duties, it is imperative that we afford all citizens the Constitutional and fundamental right to equal protection under the law.

Bias-Based Profiling

The selection of individuals(s) based solely on a trait common to a group for enforcement action. This includes but is not limited to: race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group or any other identifiable group.

Policy

The Hardee County Sheriff's Office is committed to unbiased profiling. Investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, searches, and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, nonconsensual searches, and property seizures.

How to Report Allegations Of Bias-Based Profiling

Citizens who feel they have been stopped or searched due to bias-based profiling are encouraged to file a report with the Sheriff's Office.

Reports may be filed in person, by mail, or by telephone. To file a report in writing, please include all the facts, names, dates, and places known. Please include as much detail as possible.

ALL REPORTS OF BIAS-BASED PROFILING WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Hardee County Sheriff's Office Contact information:

Phone:
863-773-0304

Address:
Hardee County Sheriff's Office
900 E. Summit Street
Wauchula, FL 33873