



# WITNESS PROTECTION LE-018

Effective Date: 2000/09/15  
Reviewed: 2014/02/19

## **Policy Statement**

*It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board that the requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in his/her administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.*

### **1. Subject**

The guiding principles under which the Chief of Police is to establish procedures and processes relating to witness protection and security.

### **2. Specific Definitions**

#### **“witness”**

Means any person who has given or intends to give testimony that is crucial to the successful prosecution of a serious criminal offence and such person, as a result of testifying, is subject to real or perceived threats of serious bodily harm or death.

#### **“Witness Assistance Relocation Program”**

Means a program, funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General, that assists witnesses in relocation and legal change of identity.

### **3. Policy Requirements**

It is the policy of the Board with respect to witness protection and security the Chief of Police shall:

- (a) Ensure complete compliance with legislative and constitutional requirements, and recognized legal principles;
- (b) Ensure that members act with full respect for human dignity and according to professional standards of skill, integrity and accountability;
- (c) Maintain both officer and public safety as a priority;
- (d) Establish procedures and processes in respect of witness protection and security;
- (e) Ensure that witnesses are protected from harm by the police services' participation in the Witness Assistance and Relocation Program;
- (f) Ensure appropriate personnel, i.e. Witness Protection Liaison Officer, be assigned with the task of coordinating the Witness Assistance Relocation Program; and
- (g) Regularly review procedures for witnesses to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings and amendments to related legislation.

### **4. Measurement Methods/Systems**

The Chief of Police shall review reported findings as may be required to ensure the safekeeping, control and accountability of all funds related to the Witness Assistance Relocation Program.

**5. Reporting**

The Chief of Police shall report on an exception basis. This applies to those circumstances where a witness under protection or security has resulted in an “exceptional” circumstance, or a circumstance which may be detrimental to the police service; and/or resulted in significant issues of potential liability to the Board and/or the police service.

As part of a separate Annual Report on Adequacy Regulation, the Chief of Police shall report on compliance with this section of the policy.

**6. 5. Authority/Legislative Reference**

Ontario Regulation 03/99, Section 13(1) (f) and 29

Board Minute #191/00

Board Minute #18/14

Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-141(F) Witness Assistance and Relocation Program (W.A.R.P)