

# Sheriff



Edward Spooner • Sheriff Okaloosa County



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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## OCSO LAUNCHES ACCREDITATION INITIATIVE

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has launched the first step towards acquiring accreditation through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Under the guidance of Sheriff Ed Spooner and OCSO leadership, an effort is currently underway to review each and every policy and procedure of the agency, focusing on maintaining the best practices of law enforcement.

"This is a commitment, a top priority, of Sheriff Spooner and our entire Command Staff," said Chief Deputy Larry Ashley. "We are motivated to not only bring in professional scrutiny of every aspect of our department to ensure the highest standards, but to show and reassure the public we will strive for and maintain those rigorous standards".

The Florida Sheriff's Association and Florida Police Chiefs Association formed the accreditation program in 1993. It requires compliance with more than 250 professional standards designed specifically for Florida law enforcement agencies. The Commission meets three times per year to oversee the accreditation program. The process to obtain accreditation typically takes up to two years but Chief Deputy Ashley says the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office hopes to expedite its efforts.

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## THE PROCESS

- An agency must apply to the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation to participate in the accreditation process.
- The agency will be required to demonstrate compliance with all mandatory standards and not less than 80% of non-mandatory standards.
- Proof of compliance with the standards is determined by an assessment team sent by the Commission, conducting an on-site review of the agency's own policies, procedures and practices.
- Assistance is available from the Commission in the form of sample policies, consultation with accredited agencies, and informal peer evaluation.
- Agencies will remain accredited for a period of three years. After the three year period they must be reaccredited.

For additional information you can go to the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation website at: [info@flaccreditation.org](mailto:info@flaccreditation.org) or contact OCSO Co-Accreditation Manager Capt. J.D. Peacock at 651-7702, Ext 388.

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