


POLICY 107.3	FLORIDA OFFICER CERTIFICATION EXAM	
	REVISED:1/96,10/01,07/05, 10/05, 03/19, 05/23	RELATED POLICIES:
	CFA STANDARDS: 4.03	REVIEWED: AS NEEDED

A. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department to comply with § 943.17, Fla. Stat., whereas each newly hired police officer, detention officer, and out of state certified police officer, must meet the standards set by Florida Department of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (FDLE CJSTC). All sworn members must successfully complete the appropriate minimum state certification program prior to assignment in any capacity in which the member is allowed to carry a firearm or is in any position to make an arrest, except as part of a formal field training program.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the responsibilities of the City of Fort Lauderdale as well as the responsibilities of the new officer.

C. TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION (TEA)

1. Non-Certified Police Officers and Detention Officer-Recruits

- a. A Temporary Employment Authorization is granted by FDLE CJSTC to newly hired police officer recruits, detention officer recruits, and out of state certified police and detention officers, while attending their academy or Equivalency of Training (EOT)/High Liability Course.
- b. Upon successfully completing the academy or EOT/High Liability Course and successfully passing all sections of the State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE), or Florida Correctional Certification Exam (FCCE), the police recruit, detention officer recruit or out-of-state certified police officer or detention officer will be a Florida Certified Law Enforcement Officer or Florida Certified Correctional Officer.

2. Out-of-State Certified Officers

- a. A Temporary Employment Authorization Statement form (CJSTC 65 form) is granted by FDLE CJSTC to police recruits, detention officer recruits, and out-of-state certified police officers for the purpose of allowing him/her to function as a police officer, detention officer, or out-of-state certified detention officer, prior to completing the required training.

- b. Upon completion of all aspects of the EOT High Liability Proficiency Demonstration Course and the completion of CJSTC Law Enforcement Exemption from Training Proficiency Demonstration Checklist (CJSTC 76A), and successfully passing all sections of the State Exam, the officer will be Florida certified.
3. Probationary Period
- a. If a new employee is hired as a non-certified police officer or detention officer, the employee's probationary period will be a period of twelve (12) months of continuous service or two hundred fifty (250) actual workdays following graduation from the appropriate police academy or corrections academy, whichever is greater, during which time the City will have the right to dismiss or retain the employee at its sole non arbitral discretion. Upon expiration of the probationary period, the employee shall be deemed a regular employee whose seniority shall date back to his/her date of hire in the permanent position.
 - b. If an employee is hired as a certified police officer or detention officer, the employee's probation period will be a period of twelve (12) months of continuous service or two hundred fifty (250) actual workdays, from the employee's date of hire, whichever is greater.

D. FLORIDA OFFICER CERTIFICATION EXAM/FLORIDA CORRECTIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAM

1. SOCE/FCCE EXAM ELIGIBILITY
- a. Individuals who have successfully completed Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy or Corrections Academy.
 - b. Florida-certified law enforcement officers and correctional officers with a break-in-service of more than four (4) years who have been granted an Equivalency of Training exemption and completed the required High Liability proficiency course.
 - c. Out-of-state, federal, or military officers who have been granted an Equivalency of Training exemption and completed the required High Liability proficiency course.
2. Upon successful completion of a Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy, Corrections Academy or the Equivalency of Training High Liability Proficiency Course, an officer or detention officer candidate is required to pass the State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE) or Florida Correctional Certification Exam (FCCE).
3. The Broward College Institute of Public Safety will schedule the police officer or detention officer candidate for the first available CJSTC Exam Study Session and

the SOCE or FCCE. The officer or detention officer candidate is authorized to attend all study sessions on City time.

5. SOCE/FCCE Examination Scheduling Information/ Pearson VUE

- a. Before the police officer or detention officer candidate can schedule the SOCE or FCCE with Pearson VUE¹, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement must first provide authorization through the CJSTC training facility where the officer candidate completed their basic training/EFT program. Pearson VUE will not allow registration until they receive an authorization file from FDLE. Once authorized, the officer candidate must create a Web account to schedule the exam online or call Pearson VUE to request assistance with setting up the account and scheduling the exam.
- b. The Agency will pay the cost for the first sitting of the SOCE/FCCE for each candidate. The Training Unit will be responsible for providing the payment information when the candidate is ready to register for the SOCE. Subsequent attempts, if necessary, shall be at the sole expense of the officer candidate.
- c. Non-certified police officers or detention officer candidates, who have successfully completed the Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Training Program or a Basic Recruit Training program for Correctional Officers, have three (3) opportunities to take and successfully pass the appropriate state exam.
- d. After successfully completing the EFT/EOT/Proficiency Demonstration Course, an out-of-state certified police officer or detention officer has three (3) opportunities to take and successfully pass the appropriate state exam.
- e. Test results notification - upon receiving test results for the exam, the police officer or detention officer candidate must provide the Training Unit Sergeant with a copy of the results upon returning to work.
- f. If the police officer or detention officer candidate fails the SOCE or FCCE, he/she is required to apply with Pearson VUE to retake the state exam in the same discipline.
 - (1). In the event the police officer or detention officer candidate fails to schedule or take the second or third state exam, the candidate will be terminated from employment.
 - (2). In the event of a third failure of the state exam, the candidate will be terminated from employment.

¹ Pearson VUE is a global leader in computer-based testing for IT, academic, government and professional programs. The company manages secure test centers throughout the world.