

Section 38
Criminal Conduct on School Buses

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish procedures for responding to calls of criminal conduct on school buses. Minnesota law vests the responsibility for responding to criminal activity on school buses with a law enforcement agency. This directive is not intended to interfere with or replace school disciplinary directives which relate to student misconduct on school buses.

II. POLICY

In the effort to provide for the safe passage of students, drivers, and chaperones in transit to school and school activities, the Deer River Police Department (DRPD) recognizes the need for cooperation among the schools, parents, students, transportation personnel and the police. It is the directive of the DRPD to respond to all reports of alleged criminal conduct occurring on school buses. It is further the directive of the DRPD to work cooperatively with school officials, transportation personnel, parents, and students in response to such incidents to protect public safety and to deal appropriately with those who violate the law.

III. SCOPE

This directive applies to all sworn law enforcement officers and other members of the Deer River Police Department who respond to, investigate, or otherwise assist in cases of criminal conduct on school buses while engaged in the discharge of their official duties, whether within or outside of the city of Deer River.

IV. REFERENCE

Minnesota Statute § 169.4581 Law Enforcement for Criminal Conduct on School Buses

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Officers shall respond promptly to reports of criminal conduct or disturbance on school buses and shall handle this type of complaint as they would any other report or call for assistance.
- B. Officers shall use discretion when handling incidents on school buses, taking all circumstances into consideration, and acting accordingly within law and directive.
- C. Complaints will be thoroughly investigated and, when warranted, be referred to the appropriate agency for follow-up investigation or prosecution.
- D. In those instances where students are questioned by police officers, standard information is required: full name and address, date of birth, parent's names and address, phone number(s), school attended and grade.
- E. Officers shall issue citations or apprehend and transport persons committing crimes on

Directives of the Deer River Police Department

school buses to the extent authorized by law and DRPD directive.

- F. Officers shall submit reports regarding the incident to the prosecuting attorney when applicable and shall follow through with any other investigation necessary to prepare a case pertaining to alleged criminal conduct on school buses as required by the prosecuting attorney.
- G. Officers shall provide information to the school regarding the incident as required or authorized by law.
- H. School districts and transportation providers have disciplinary directives to regulate behavior of students while on school buses, which are not enforceable as criminal violations