

Responsibilities and Duties of the Police

The Police Order 2002 seeks to reform the police service with the aim of addressing long-standing complaints of citizens in Pakistan. It declares in its preamble that the police has an obligation to function according to the Constitution, law, and democratic aspirations of the people of Pakistan. In order to ensure effective realization of this obligation, it envisages a service which is professional, service-oriented and accountable to the people. Furthermore, it clearly spells out the responsibilities and duties of the police towards citizens, which are listed in the following paragraphs.

I. Attitude and Responsibilities of Police Towards the Public:

Under Chapter II of the Police Order 2002, it is a duty of every police officer to:

1. Behave with members of the public with due decorum and courtesy;
2. Promote amity;
3. Guide and assist members of the public particularly the poor, disabled or physically weak and children who are either lost or find themselves helpless on the streets or other public places;
4. Assist in preventing members of public from exploitation by any person or organized groups;
5. Aid individuals who are in danger of physical harm.

II. Duties of Police:

Under Chapter II of the Police Order 2002, it is a duty of every police officer to:

1. Preserve and promote public peace;
2. Ensure that the rights and privileges, under the law, of a person taken in custody, are protected;
3. Prevent the commission of offences and public nuisance;
4. Collect and communicate intelligence affecting public peace and crime in general;
5. Keep order and prevent obstruction on public roads and in the public streets/ thoroughfares at fairs and all other places of public resort and in the neighborhood of and at the places of public worship;
6. Regulate and control traffic on public roads/ streets;
7. take charge of all unclaimed property and to prepare its inventory;
8. Detect and bring offenders to justice;
9. Apprehend all persons whom he is legally authorized to apprehend and for whose apprehension, sufficient grounds exist;
10. Ensure that the information about the arrest of a person is promptly communicated to a person of his choice;
11. Enter and inspect without a warrant on reliable information any:
 - Public place including shop or gaming-house where alcoholic drinks or narcotics are sold or weapons are illegally stored;

- Other places of resort of loose and disorderly characters.
12. Obey and promptly execute all lawful orders;
 13. Perform such other duties and exercise powers as are conferred by this Ordinance, the Code or any other law for the time being in force;
 14. Aid and cooperate with other agencies for the prevention of destruction of public property by violence, fire, or national calamities;
 15. Take charge of lunatics at large to prevent them from causing harm to themselves or other members of the public and their property;
 16. Prevent harassment of women and children in public places;
 17. Police officer should make every effort to:
 - Afford relief to people in distress situations;
 - Provide assistance to victims of road accidents;
 - Assist accident victims or their heirs or their dependents, where applicable, with such information and documents as would facilitate their compensations claims;
 - Cause awareness among the victims of road accidents of their rights and privileges.

CPDI-Pakistan

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- 6 Legislative Watch and Development.