

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: Mobile Rapid Identification Devices

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the issuance, training in, and use of the Mobile Rapid ID Digital Fingerprint Identification System.

This policy applies to all personnel. Authority to approve the use of the Mobile Rapid ID devices to members of the department shall be vested in the Chief of Police or his designee. Only devices which conform to the standards set forth by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations will be approved.

II. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Covington Police Department to provide its members with the most current, cutting edge technology in the effort to apprehend criminals and fulfill its mission of providing the citizens with a safer community in which to live and work. The issuance and use of the Mobile ID System is intended to provide sworn department members with a specialized tool to assist in the positive identification of individuals under appropriate circumstances. A Mobile Rapid ID device may be used in a variety of circumstances; however, members must be aware that there are specific requirements and guidelines for its use.

III. Definitions

Rapid ID Devices – The Mobile Rapid Identification System is a fingerprint identification solution that wirelessly submits scanned fingerprints to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). Results of the automated comparison are sent wirelessly to the originating device, affirming the identity of scanned subject if that subject's known fingerprints were previously submitted to AFIS.

Agency Rapid ID System Administrator (RSA) – The person designated by the Chief of Police to administer and oversee the deployment and use of the Rapid ID system. The RSA will ensure that all training requirements and GCIC Terminal Operator Inquiry Level Course(s) have been completed prior to deployment and use.

IV. Procedures

A. Issuance of the Rapid ID Device

1. The RSA is responsible for the operational functionality and maintenance of each Rapid ID device.
2. Rapid ID Devices will only be operated by personnel who are currently certified to run GCIC inquiries and who have received training on the operation of these devices.
3. All Rapid ID Device Units must be properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations as specified by the training provided prior to use.

B. Training

1. Prior to the issuance of a Rapid ID Device, personnel will complete a department approved Rapid ID Device training course and demonstrate their proficiency in using the device.
2. Training will be based on manufacturer's recommendations and suggestions from the RSA.
3. Training will include at a minimum:
 - a. GCIC terminal operator certification (inquiry level minimum)
 - b. Setup and maintenance procedures
 - c. Proper use guidelines
 - d. Legal considerations
 - e. Reporting requirements

C. Guidelines for use of the Rapid ID Device

1. The Rapid ID Device may be used in situations where the subject to be fingerprinted has given a voluntary consent or permission to use the device. This may include consent given during lawful encounters (i.e. traffic stops, investigative detentions, arrest incidents).
 - a. As with other forms of consent, the consent can be limited or withdrawn at any point by the subject.
 - b. If consent is withdrawn, use of the Rapid ID Device is not authorized and its use must stop immediately. Supervisors shall not force or coerce anyone to submit to its use.
2. The Rapid ID Device may be used in situations where reasonable suspicion can be articulated that the subject to be printed has committed, or is about to commit a criminal act, when there is a justifiable and reasonable belief that such printing

via the Rapid ID Device will affirm the subject's identity and to aid in resolving the criminal suspicions being investigated.

- a. Failure to comply with the request to provide a Rapid ID Device scan under these circumstances may constitute a form of obstruction (O.C.G.A. 16-10-24). However, such refusal shall not serve as a basis for an obstruction or resisting charge being lodged. Instead, such failure to comply may be utilized as further evidence of suspicion for the suspected crime and personnel should proceed with the investigation without the scan.
 - b. The Rapid ID Device may be used in situations where the subject would otherwise be required to give traditional fingerprint samples. Some examples would include:
 1. Probable cause arrest situations.
 2. Required sentencing fingerprints for court.
 3. When a subject is issued a citation or summons but does not have valid identification readily available. A Rapid ID Device may be used to assure the identity given by the subject is accurate.
3. The Rapid ID Device may be used in situations where the use of the device has been specifically authorized pursuant to a valid court order.
 - a. Where a court order requiring the use has been ordained, reasonable and safe efforts to gain compliance may be employed.
 - b. Failure to comply may constitute contempt of court and may be constitute obstruction of justice.
 4. Use of the Rapid ID Device for random or generalized investigations or intelligence gathering, with no focused case or other legal reason, is not authorized.
 5. Any specialized non-standard use of the Rapid ID Device shall require authorization by a Supervisor. Examples of non-standard use may include:
 - a. Request from an outside agency to fingerprint a suspect in custody. (As long as the circumstances justifying the scan comply with this policy).
 - b. Death investigations in situations where available documentation or other resources are inadequate to affirm identification of the deceased person.
 - c. To identify an unconscious or otherwise incapacitated person who cannot be identified by any other means.
 6. Guidelines cannot be written to encompass every possible application for the use of the Rapid ID Device. Personnel should keep in mind the guidelines set forth in this policy to assist them in deciding whether or not the device may be used.

7. Personnel must be prepared to articulate, based on these guidelines, training, experience and assessment of the circumstances, how they determined using the Rapid ID Device was justified under the circumstances.

D. Required documentation

Each use of a Rapid ID Device shall be documented within the narrative of a RMS incident/arrest/accident report. If a report was not required, documentation shall be made in the notes section of a traffic citation/warning, field interview report, or within the CAD call notes. Documentation shall clearly state the specific justification for the device's use.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Philip Bradford
Philip Bradford
Chief of Police