

CYPRESS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Six Pillars of Character SM

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Trustworthiness embodies four ethical obligations essential to personal credibility and public trust: integrity (consistency between beliefs, words, and actions), honesty (truthfulness, sincerity, and candor), promise-keeping and loyalty.

RESPECT

Respect refers to the moral duty to treat all people with dignity regardless of what we think of them personally. There are two aspects to respect: verbal and physical. Respect is demonstrated by courtesy and professionalism. It is disrespectful and unprofessional to use profanity; to make racial, ethnic, or gender slurs; to make sexual comments; or to engage in other conduct that could reasonably be construed as rude, crude, tasteless, humiliating, or abusive. The ethical principle of respect also limits the use of physical force.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility means being personally accountable for our choices and executing duties with professionalism and proficiency. It also means recognizing that our actions matter and we are morally on the hook for the consequences.

FAIRNESS

Fairness is treating people equally, being consistent, being open-minded, giving people an opportunity to respond to accusations, and making decisions on the merits while avoiding favoritism, bias, or prejudice.

CARING

Caring is the heart of ethics and ethical decision-making. It is scarcely possible to be ethical and unconcerned with the welfare of others. That is because ethics is ultimately about good relations with other people. Caring is being kind, compassionate, empathetic, charitable, and forgiving.

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship as an ethical value does not refer to one's residence or status in one country or another. Rather, it speaks to one's duty to be a constructive, law-abiding member of the community who honors the rule of law, respects lawful authority, and abides by the letter and spirit of the law. Being a good citizen also involves meeting civic responsibilities by voting and participating in the processes of democracy. Good citizens also demonstrate a concern for the well-being of their neighbors and help protect the environment for future generations.