Can officers decide when to stop or start recording?

Recording is required to continue once started “until the conclusion of the incident or encounter,” or when determined necessary by a supervisor. For example, recording might stop when no evidence is likely to continue to be collected. Officers must document in reports when and why their camera was turned off. (See “How often will officers will be recording?”)

What are the guidelines for officers responding to adults, minors, or vulnerable populations?

When responding to an apparent mental health crisis or event, body-worn cameras will be activated as necessary to document any response to resistance and the basis for it, and any other information having evidentiary value. Body-worn cameras don’t need to be activated when doing so would serve only to record symptoms or behaviors believed to be attributable to the mental health issue.

Where can I find more information on the policy and guidelines?

Visit www.stlouispark.org/body-worn-cameras for the complete body-worn camera policy.

For information:

St. Louis Park Police Department
3015 Raleigh Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952.924.2600
www.stlouispark.org

Created in collaboration with the St. Louis Park Police Department Multicultural Advisory Committee
Why use body-worn cameras?
The primary purpose of the St. Louis Park Police Department’s body-worn camera program is to:
• Capture evidence from police-citizen contacts
• Help ensure accurate reports.
• Allow for transparency and accountability in policing and protect the civil rights of the community.

Do people have to be notified when the body-worn camera is recording?
Officers don’t have to tell people that a body-worn camera is being operated or that the individuals are being recorded. Officers wear the camera in a conspicuous location and manner. People should assume the camera is recording. It’s also okay to ask the officer if the camera is on or to ask the officer to turn on the camera.

Can officers record in a home or other private areas?
Body-worn cameras can be used to record any police-citizen encounter. This includes inside private homes and other sensitive areas where officers are on official business and legally allowed. Recording is not required during medical situations unless there is a reason to use the camera to collect evidence, statements and interviews.

Who reviews the videos?
Officers can review their own video and supervisors can review all officer videos. State law requires an independent audit of the police department’s body-worn camera program every two years. The audit’s purpose is to ensure officers comply with the recording policy along with ensuring data is stored and released to the public properly. If an audit shows the police department is out of compliance with state law, independent audits can be ordered more frequently; continued non-compliance can result in suspension of the body-worn camera program.

Where and how long will videos be stored?
Videos are downloaded and stored in a cloud-based storage vault provided by the camera’s manufacturer. All recordings must be saved a minimum of 90 days. The police department follows the Minnesota Data Practice law that guides the duration of storage for all incident types. Some storage requirements are longer than 90 days.

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