

# Temporary Modified-Duty Assignments

## 1027.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes procedures for providing temporary modified-duty assignments. This policy is not intended to affect the rights or benefits of employees under federal or state law, City rules, current memorandums of understanding or collective bargaining agreements. For example, nothing in this policy affects the obligation of the Department to engage in a good faith, interactive process to consider reasonable accommodations for any employee with a temporary or permanent disability that is protected under federal or state law.

## 1027.2 POLICY

Subject to operational considerations, the Barstow Police Department may identify temporary modified-duty assignments for employees who have an injury or medical condition resulting in temporary work limitations or restrictions. A temporary assignment allows the employee to work, while providing the Department with a productive employee during the temporary period.

## 1027.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Priority consideration for temporary modified-duty assignments will be given to employees with work-related injuries or illnesses that are temporary in nature. Employees having disabilities covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code § 12940 et seq.) shall be treated equally, without regard to any preference for a work-related injury.

No position in the Barstow Police Department shall be created or maintained as a temporary modified-duty assignment.

Temporary modified-duty assignments are a management prerogative and not an employee right. The availability of temporary modified-duty assignments will be determined on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the operational needs of the Department. Temporary modified-duty assignments are subject to continuous reassessment, with consideration given to operational needs and the employee's ability to perform in a modified-duty assignment.

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee may restrict employees working in temporary modified-duty assignments from wearing a uniform, displaying a badge, carrying a firearm, operating an emergency vehicle, engaging in outside employment, or being otherwise limited in employing their peace officer powers.

Temporary modified-duty assignments shall generally not exceed a cumulative total of 1,040 hours in any one-year period.

## 1027.4 PROCEDURE

Employees may request a temporary modified-duty assignment for short-term injuries or illnesses.

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Employees seeking a temporary modified-duty assignment should submit a written request to their Division Commanders or the authorized designees. The request should, as applicable, include a certification from the treating medical professional containing:

- (a) An assessment of the nature and probable duration of the illness or injury.
- (b) The prognosis for recovery.
- (c) The nature and scope of limitations and/or work restrictions.
- (d) A statement regarding any required workplace accommodations, mobility aids or medical devices.
- (e) A statement that the employee can safely perform the duties of the temporary modified-duty assignment.

The Division Commander will make a recommendation through the chain of command to the Chief of Police regarding temporary modified-duty assignments that may be available based on the needs of the Department and the limitations of the employee. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall confer with the Department of Human Resources or the City Attorney as appropriate.

Requests for a temporary modified-duty assignment of 20 hours or less per week may be approved and facilitated by the Watch Commander or Division Commander, with notice to the Chief of Police.

### 1027.4.1 MODIFIED-DUTY SCHEDULES

The schedules of employees assigned to modified duty may be adjusted to suit medical appointments or Department needs at the discretion of the Division Commander.

The employee and his/her supervisors should be informed in writing of the schedule, assignment and limitations and restrictions as determined by the employee's health care provider.

### 1027.4.2 ACCOUNTABILITY

The employee's supervisor shall coordinate efforts to ensure proper time accountability and shall monitor the employee's performance and conditions in order to evaluate continuance of the modified duty assignment.

- (a) Employees on modified duty are responsible for coordinating required doctor visits and physical therapy appointments in advance with their supervisor to appropriately account for any duty time taken. Doctor visits and appointments for treatment of injuries or illnesses that are not work related shall be arranged during off-duty time or otherwise charged to the employee's sick leave.
- (b) Employees shall promptly submit a status report for each visit to their treating health care provider and shall immediately notify their supervisor of any change in restrictions or limitations as determined by their health care provider. An employee assigned to a modified-duty assignment shall provide a duty status report to their supervisor no less than once every 30 days while the employee is on modified duty.

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- (c) Supervisors shall keep the Division Commander apprised of the employee's status and ability to perform the modified-duty assignment. Modified-duty assignments that extend beyond 90 days will require a written status report by the employee's health care provider and a request for an extension to the Division Commander with an update of the employee's current status and anticipated date of return to regular duty. Extensions require approval of the Chief of Police.
- (d) When it is determined that an employee on modified duty will return to regular duty, the supervisor shall notify the Division Commander. All training and certification necessary for return to duty shall be reviewed and updated as necessary.

### 1027.4.3 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The Department reserves the right to require, prior to returning to full-duty status, a fitness-for-duty examination of any employee assigned to a modified-duty assignment or of any employee having been on such assignment. Such examinations shall be at the expense of the Department.

Prior to returning to full-duty status, employees shall be required to provide a statement signed by their health care provider indicating that they are medically cleared to perform the basic and essential job functions of their assignment without restriction or limitation.

### 1027.5 ACCOUNTABILITY

Written notification of assignments, work schedules and any restrictions should be provided to employees assigned to temporary modified-duty assignments and their supervisors. Those assignments and schedules may be adjusted to accommodate department operations and the employee's medical appointments, as mutually agreed upon with the Division Commander.

#### 1027.5.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of employees assigned to temporary modified duty shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Communicating and coordinating any required medical and physical therapy appointments in advance with their supervisors.
- (b) Promptly notifying their supervisors of any change in restrictions or limitations after each appointment with their treating medical professionals.
- (c) Communicating a status update to their supervisors no less than once every 30 days while assigned to temporary modified duty.
- (d) Submitting a written status report to the Division Commander that contains a status update and anticipated date of return to full-duty when a temporary modified-duty assignment extends beyond 60 days.

#### 1027.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The employee's immediate supervisor shall monitor and manage the work schedule of those assigned to temporary modified duty.

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The responsibilities of supervisors shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Periodically apprising the Division Commander of the status and performance of employees assigned to temporary modified duty.
- (b) Notifying the Division Commander and ensuring that the required documentation facilitating a return to full duty is received from the employee.
- (c) Ensuring that employees returning to full duty have completed any required training and certification.

### **1027.6 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Prior to returning to full-duty status, employees shall be required to provide certification from their treating medical professionals stating that they are medically cleared to perform the essential functions of their jobs without restrictions or limitations.

The Department may require a fitness-for-duty examination prior to returning an employee to full-duty status, in accordance with the Fitness for Duty Policy.

### **1027.7 PREGNANCY**

If an employee is temporarily unable to perform regular duties due to a pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, the employee will be treated the same as any other temporarily disabled employee (42 USC § 2000e(k)). A pregnant employee shall not be involuntarily transferred to a temporary modified-duty assignment. Nothing in this policy limits a pregnant employee's right to a temporary modified-duty assignment if required under Government Code § 12945.

#### **1027.7.1 NOTIFICATION**

Pregnant employees should notify their immediate supervisors as soon as practicable and provide a statement from their medical providers identifying any pregnancy-related job restrictions or limitations. If at any point during the pregnancy it becomes necessary for the employee to take a leave of absence, such leave shall be granted in accordance with the City's personnel rules and regulations regarding family and medical care leave.

### **1027.8 PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES**

Probationary employees who are assigned to a temporary modified-duty assignment shall have their probation extended by a period of time equal to their assignment to temporary modified duty.

### **1027.9 MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING**

Employees assigned to temporary modified duty shall maintain all certification, training and qualifications appropriate to both their regular and temporary duties, provided that the certification, training or qualifications are not in conflict with any medical limitations or restrictions. Employees who are assigned to temporary modified duty shall inform their supervisors of any inability to maintain any certification, training or qualifications.