



## Preparing for a Career in Law Enforcement

Many candidates for law enforcement positions are unsuccessful due to poor choices they made earlier in life, or are continuing to make, that disqualify their application. Listed below are a few important points to consider if you wish to become a law enforcement officer.

### **1. Don't do drugs, or if you do, stop now!**

Most law enforcement agencies allow for some youth experimentation.

### **2. Don't abuse alcohol**

Alcohol is a drug that can lead to many disqualifying behaviors including fighting, driving under the influence and poor judgment.

### **3. Protect your driving record**

Law enforcement agencies look at the number of tickets you have received, your vehicle accidents and license suspensions.

### **4. Make fitness a way of life**

Law enforcement is a strenuous job. Your safety and the safety of others may depend on your health and physical fitness.

### **5. Pay your bills**

How you handle your finances reveals your level of responsibility and maturity. If you are careless with your money, it may suggest you could be careless in other aspects of your life.

### **6. Be honest in all you do**

Law enforcement officers must be of the highest moral character. Integrity, honesty and trust is expected of an officer.

### **7. Develop your writing skills**

Writing is a major part of the job of a law enforcement officer. He/she must be able to quickly write a clear, accurate and logical report, using good grammar, punctuation and spelling.

### **8. Set your values and be true to them**

Your values should be built on a moral code of integrity and honesty. Don't allow peer pressure to change who you are.

### **9. Strengthen your self esteem**

A law enforcement officer needs to be assertive, confident, self-controlled, outgoing, personable and able to interact well with all people.

### **10. Your job history is important**

No matter what your job is, do your very best. Be known for your honesty, dependability and strong work ethic. Get along well with others. Don't call in sick when you're not. Good references from previous employers are critical to getting a job in law enforcement.