

MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. The foundation of Accreditation lies in the voluntary adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine which of their existing operations already meet some of the standards and/or how the procedures can be adapted to meet the standards and professional objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained Commission assessors verifies that applicable standards have been successfully implemented and the agency is in compliance.

Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of written directives, policies, and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

The Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA) have pursued the concept and development of a voluntary statewide law enforcement accreditation program for Michigan. This effort has resulted in the formation of the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC). The MLEAC consists of commissioners from law enforcement and other professions appointed by the MACP, the MSA and the Commission itself. Personnel from the MACP provide support services to the MLEAC and to applicant agencies.

The attitudes, training and actions of personnel of Michigan's law enforcement agencies best reflect compliance with the 108 standards contained in this program. Written Directives, policies and procedures based on Accreditation will not insure mistake-free policing or a crime-free environment for citizens. Nor will it insure an absence of litigation against law enforcement agencies and executives, but it will put the agency in a better position to defend their actions against law suits.

Effective and comprehensive leadership through professionally based written directive and policy development is directly influenced by a law enforcement program that is comprehensive, obtainable, and based on standards that reflect the delivery of professional police service.

The MACP and the MSA believe the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program will enhance the professionalism of police organizations in the state.

For more information, feel free to contact the Accreditation Program Director Neal Rossow, at the information listed below.

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