



City of Tacoma
Police Department

DRUG USAGE STANDARDS

The City of Tacoma recognizes that it is common for candidates to have experimented with, or casually used, controlled substances/illegal drugs in their past. However, any use over the allowed standards may be disqualifying. Each category mentioned below includes all derivatives of these controlled substances.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE: Except for marijuana, each applicant must be drug-free for a minimum of two (2) years before the date of application for all categories of the controlled substances listed below. Any use within two (2) years before the date of application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Any illegal drug possession or usage after date of application, while employed, or after being employed by any law enforcement agency (including military law enforcement) is disqualifying.

More than five (5) uses of any individual drug or a combination of drugs that exceeds eight (8) total usages may be disqualifying. Past drug usage will be confirmed by a background investigation and a polygraph examination.

Marijuana:

Usage while actively seeking employment as a Police Officer is disqualifying.

Amphetamines:

No use within two (2) years before the date of application.

Steroids (excludes those prescribed by a doctor):

No use within two (2) years before the date of application.

Cocaine:

No use within two (2) years before the date of application.

Hallucinogens:

No recreational use for the last two (2) years.

To create a safe and secure environment in which to live, work, and visit by working together with the community, enforcing the law in a fair and impartial manner, preserving the peace and order in our neighborhoods, and safeguarding our constitutional guarantees.

3701 South Pine Street – Tacoma, Washington 98409

Club Drugs (Including, but not limited to, Ecstasy, Ketamine, GHB, and MDMA.) including Rohypnol):

No recreational use for the last two (2) years. (Unless possession was involuntary; applicant victimized).

Opiates (non-prescribed). Heroin. Morphine:

No use within two (2) years before the date of application.

Sniffing Inhalants/Solvents:

No use within two (2) years before the date of application.

Any other illegal drugs:

No use for the last two (2) years.

Any use of prescription medication prescribed to someone other than the applicant can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Engaging in the distribution or sale of a controlled substance for financial gain, while under the age of 18 years old, including but not limited to delivery or trafficking, may be subject to disqualification on a case-by-case basis.

Automatic Disqualifiers:

- Manufacturing of any illegal drug.
- Any drug use while serving in the United States Military.
- Distribution/sales of an illegal substance for financial gain (includes deliver, trafficking) while 18 years of age or older.
- Administering any drug to another without their knowledge or consent (drugging).

Note: While this list is not all-inclusive, use of any controlled substance not listed here will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Signed by:

Assistant Chief Chris Karl
05/04/2026
Date