

How to Become an Active Ohio PEACE OFFICER After Retirement



Under the direction of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) is providing information on the process for recently retired law enforcement officers in good standing to return to serving the communities they previously served. Peace officers may also be appointed to any other law enforcement agency in Ohio that needs peace officers and is nearer to the retired officer's current residence.

Retired officers returning to work may have to complete required refresher training within a year after their rehire date (OAC 109:2-1-12(D)). A training determination is completed upon receipt of a SF400 Notification of Peace Officer Appointment from the hiring agency. To determine whether the retired officer must take refresher training, OPOTC staff members compare that officer's retirement/separation date with his or her re-hire date:

- If the gap between the dates is one year or less, no training is required to return to service.
- If the gap exceeds one year but is less than four years, the returning officer must complete a 16-hour, OPOTC-approved refresher course and pass a State Certification Exam to meet the requirements of an Ohio certified peace officer. The returning officer has one year from his or her rehire date to complete the course and exam but may function as a peace officer in the interim.
- For returning officers with a gap exceeding one year but less than four years, OPOTC staff also reviews the returning officer's training file for missing statutorily mandated training and missing required continuous professional training (CPT). For any such outstanding training and CPT, the officer has one year from his or her rehire date to complete that required training; he or she may function as a peace officer in the interim.
- Returning retired peace officers who, at the time of retirement, had missed statutorily mandated training, CPT training, and/or refresher training and may have been in "cease function" status must complete that training prior to performing the functions of a peace officer. The one-year grace period does not apply to training that was overdue at the time of retirement. Such officers remain in "cease function" status until they complete the overdue training and provide proof of completion to OPOTA's executive director.
- Most of the refresher training is currently available online through eOPOTA, and OPOTA staff is actively working to get the rest up and running. Once Ohio's social-distancing policies are eased, there will be in-person refresher training available as soon as possible both at OPOTA and regionally.
- Additional requirements, such as firearms requalifications, are the responsibility of the hiring agency.

Retired peace officers interested in this option are encouraged to contact their previous agency or an agency in need near their current residence. You are also encouraged to contact your respective retirement system (OP&F, PERS-LE, etc.) and ask about the potential impact on any retirement benefits you may be receiving.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

For more information about reactivating your peace officer certification, contact the agency you wish to join.