

# TEN STEPS TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER

Many candidates for law enforcement positions are unsuccessful due to problems that occurred earlier in their lives, and result in the candidate saying, "If I'd only known then that (the problem) was going to affect my chances for a law enforcement career." Here is a partial list of areas to consider, as they are crucial to your success: -

## 1. DON'T DO DRUGS; OR IF YOU DO, STOP NOW!

Most agencies allow for some High School Experimentation, but beyond that, a candidate will be disqualified.

## 2. DON'T LET ALCOHOL USE CREEP UP ON YOU!

Alcohol is a drug, which leads to a whole host of disqualifying areas; fighting, DUI's, poor health.

## 3. PROTECT YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGE!

Agencies look at the number of tickets you have received, vehicle accidents and license suspensions. Also disqualifying is failure to carry proper insurance.

## 4. MAKE FITNESS A WAY OF LIFE!

Law Enforcement is a strenuous job in which your safety can depend upon your being physically fit.

## 5. PAY YOUR BILLS!

Agencies regard how you handle your finances as a way to determine your level of responsibility and maturity.

## 6. HONESTY IS ITS OWN REWARD!

Sure, it's an old fashioned phrase, but many candidates are eliminated for stealing or lying. If a person is not honest, he/she has no business being a police officer.

## 7. SHARPEN YOUR WRITING SKILLS!

People underestimate how important writing is to a police officer. Many candidates are screened out for poor grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.

## 8. YOUR JOB HISTORY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT!

No matter what job you have, make a good impression on your employer; it will pay off dividends when background investigations are conducted. AVOID TERMINATIONS!

## 9. STRENGTHEN YOUR SELF-ESTEEM!

We need officers who are assertive, self-confident, outgoing, personable and interact well with all persons. These factors are directly related to your self-esteem.

## 10. SET YOUR VALUES AND BE TRUE TO THEM!

Peer pressure is a very powerful force, but the real test for a person is the ability to be true to his/her self. Easy on the social media it doesn't always show the best of a person and sends the wrong message about you.