



# SYKESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Disposal of Media Policy

General Order 11-4      Effective: 03/28/17

Authorized By: *Michael A. Spaulding* Chief of Police

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### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the proper disposal of media (physical or electronic) at the Sykesville Police Department. These rules are in place to protect sensitive and classified information, employees and the Police Department. Inappropriate disposal of SPD and FBI Criminal Justice Information (CJI) and media may put employees, SPD and the FBI at risk.

### II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all SPD employees, contractors, temporary staff, and other workers at the Sykesville Police Department, with access to FBI CJIS systems and/or data, sensitive and classified data, and media. This policy applies to all equipment that processes, stores, and/or transmits FBI CJI and classified and sensitive data that is owned or leased by SPD.

### III. POLICY

When no longer usable, hard drives, diskettes, tape cartridges, CDs, ribbons, hard copies, print-outs, and other similar items used to process, store and/or transmit FBI CJI and classified and sensitive data shall be properly disposed of in accordance with measures established by SPD.

Physical media (print-outs and other physical media) shall be disposed of by one of the following methods:

- 1) shredding using SPD issued shredders.
- 2) placed in locked shredding bins for authorized shredding contractor to come on-site and shred, witnessed by SPD personnel throughout the entire process.
- 3) incineration using Carroll County incinerators or witnessed by SPD personnel onsite at agency or at contractor incineration site, if conducted by non-authorized personnel.

Electronic media (hard-drives, tape cartridge, CDs, printer ribbons, flash drives, printer and copier hard-drives, etc.) shall be disposed of by one of the SPD authorized methods:

- 1) **Overwriting (at least 3 times)** - an effective method of clearing data from magnetic media. As the name implies, overwriting uses a program to write (1s, 0s, or a combination of both) onto the location of the media where the file to be sanitized is located.

- 2) **Degaussing** - a method to magnetically erase data from magnetic media. Two types of degaussing exist: strong magnets and electric degausses. Note that common magnets (e.g., those used to hang a picture on a wall) are fairly weak and cannot effectively degauss magnetic media.
- 3) **Destruction** – a method of destroying magnetic media. As the name implies, destruction of magnetic media is to physically dismantle by methods of crushing, disassembling, etc., ensuring that the platters have been physically destroyed so that no data can be pulled.

IT systems that have been used to process, store, or transmit FBI CJI and/or sensitive and classified information shall not be released from SPD's control until the equipment has been sanitized and all stored information has been cleared using one of the above methods.

#### **IV. ENFORCEMENT**

Any employee found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.