

Iowa Police Officer Requirements

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) is the agency responsible for setting and enforcing minimum hiring and training requirements for Iowa cops. As in most states, to become a police officer in Iowa applicants must be US citizens with a high school diploma or GED. In addition to those basic standards, potential cops must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a resident of Iowa or intend to become a resident upon employment
- Have a valid Iowa driver's license
- Not be addicted to any controlled substance, including alcohol
- Have no felony convictions
- Have been fingerprinted and pass a background investigation
- Have normal hearing (with or without hearing aids)
- Have uncorrected vision of 20/100 (minimum) correctable to 20/20 and be able to differentiate between red and blue

Potential candidates who meet these requirements must pass basic skills testing and undergo a physical exam to ensure that they are able to meet the demands of the job. Other required exams include a psychological exam, medical exam, and drug testing. Recruits will also submit to a polygraph test. Successful recruits will attend a police training academy.

Cedar County
Class Specification
01/27/26

JOB TITLE: DEPUTY SHERIFF

REPORTS TO: CHIEF DEPUTY

OFFICE: SHERIFF

JOB SUMMARY:

Performs work involving general police work in the protection of life and property through the enforcement of County ordinances and other pertinent local, State and Federal laws. Deputies do patrol work, criminal investigation, transport prisoners and mental subjects, serve papers, testify in court, investigate accidents, perform courthouse security and perform other related duties as required. The work involves an element of personal danger and is performed under general supervision.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Supervise Reserve Deputies when on duty.

Enforce all pertinent local, State and Federal laws.

Patrol Cedar County and check on vehicles and buildings throughout in order to detect any suspicious conditions or activity.

Investigate suspicious conditions and complaints and make arrests of persons who violate the laws.

Make traffic arrests and give violation tickets to those who break traffic laws. Aid motorist and investigate traffic accidents.

Assist in cases of fires, medical emergencies, rescues, hazardous material, and public disorder. Restore order, regulate traffic and prepare necessary reports.

Conduct investigations of serious crimes and accidental deaths. Preserve the scenes of crime, interview victims, witnesses, and suspects. Follow-up on leads and present cases to the County Attorney's office.

Serve warrants, subpoenas and other legal papers. Handle and supervise evictions.

Perform transportation for prisoners to jail and for mental health patients to and from hospitals and care facilities per court orders.
Appear in court to testify.

Assist on medical calls with CPR and basic first aid.

Maintain records and prepare reports.

Perform all other related duties as assigned.

Perform Security for the Courthouse when required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Knowledge of the Iowa Criminal Code, Rules of Civil Procedures and Department policies. Ability to communicate effectively with the general public. Ability to handle stressful situations. Ability to operate various equipment to help in the performance of the job.

Training and Experience

High School diploma or equivalent required. Must pass the Civil Service Exam and have completed the basic training academy at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy within one year of hire.

Necessary Special Requirements

Valid State of Iowa Driver's License required. Ability to obtain and Maintain certification in the following areas; CPR, weapons, breath testing device, radar and keep the hours required for continuing education in law enforcement. Regular work attendance required. Must be a Cedar County resident within 6 months of hire.

Physical and Mental Abilities:

While performing the essential functions of this job the employee is occasionally required to lift and/or move more than 100 pounds.

Heavy mobility; duties are usually performed by frequent walking and/or standing, kneeling and squatting relieved by periods of sitting or operating a vehicle.

Good vision is required, either uncorrected or corrected.

Work produces mental and visual fatigue due to sustained periods of concentration, working under pressure, and continual interruptions in concentration.

Substantial amount of physical effort and manual dexterity required.

Physical ability to apprehend suspects and strength to sustain custody over unruly suspects is occasionally required.

Working Conditions:

While performing the essential functions of this position the employee is occasionally exposed to outdoor weather conditions.

While performing the essential functions of this position the employee is occasionally exposed to work near moving mechanical parts, work in highly precarious places, around fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals, work with explosive material and around and in high traffic areas.

Occasional exposure to hazardous situations which involve armed or physically violent persons, or mentally or emotionally disturbed persons.

Frequent exposure of dirt, dust, extremes in temperature, and noxious fumes and odors.

Exposed to hazards associated with equipment, machinery and moving vehicles on roadways.

Exposure to unknown and dangerous conditions such as intoxicated or violent arrestees, life threatening situations such as armed and/or violent arrestees and unknown situations at accident scenes.

Work hours may require irregular hours and shifts including weekends and holidays.

This class specification should not be interpreted as all inclusive. It is intended to identify the major responsibilities and requirements of this job. The incumbents may be requested to perform job related responsibilities and tasks other than those stated in this specification.