

Corporate Policy

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Section:	Protective Services	14
Sub-Section:	Police Services – Issues	7450
Title:	Found Property	01

Related Policies

Number	Title

Approvals

Approval Date: December 12, 2000	Resolution #: 00-341
Approval Date: September 19, 2017	Resolution #: <u>RC(CW)17/031 (CW17/117)</u>
Amended:	Resolution #:
Amended:	Resolution #:

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Found Property

Policy

This policy authorizes the Chief Constable to deal with found property pursuant to section 67 of the *Community Charter – Disposal of Property in Police Possession*.

Procedures

General

All found, recovered, and evidentiary property will be disposed of by returning to the owner, forwarding for auction, or being destroyed by the Exhibit Officer within 12 months, after all legal requirements have been satisfied.

Upon disposition, the Exhibit Officer will be responsible for recovering exhibits from the Court and returning them to the rightful owner.

Found Property – Rightful Owner Not Ascertained

Returned to Finder

Any property seized by the police, where the rightful owner cannot be ascertained, may be returned to the finder at the expiration of the 90-day holding period, if the property value is less than \$5,000 and the found property is not:

- a bicycle;
- a perishable item;
- a combustible explosive or otherwise dangerous article; or
- an article that may pose liability or controversy.

Over \$5,000

All items valued at \$5,000 or more will be retained by the Department for a period of one year and may then be returned to the finder.

NOTE: If the investigation determines that the items should not be returned to the finder, the usual procedures for disposition will be used.

Bicycles

With respect to bicycles:

- bicycles will not be returned to the finder;
- if the bicycle is not reported stolen, and the value as estimated by the investigating officer is under \$75, there will be no need to hold the bicycle and it should be delivered to the City and “tagged” for disposition; and
- all other bicycles will be “tagged” and held for 90 days after which, if unclaimed by the rightful owner, they will be turned over to the City for disposition by public auction.

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Perishable Items

All perishable items will be disposed of as soon as possible, including:

- fruit and vegetables;
- dairy products;
- meat products;
- manufactured goods that have a known shelf life; and
- other perishable goods.

Combustible, Explosive and Otherwise Dangerous Articles

Articles that are combustible, explosive, or otherwise dangerous will be destroyed or otherwise disposed of in an approved environmental manner, including but not limited to:

- fuel;
- explosives; and
- chemicals.

With respect to explosive substances:

- members will not handle any substance that appears to be unstable;
- explosive substances must be turned over to the RCMP Explosives Disposal Unit will dispose of all explosives, ammunition, fireworks seized by the Department; and
- the RCMP Explosives Disposal Unit will also assist with the disposal of hazardous chemicals and can be used as a referral for the community who have enquiries regarding the disposal of unknown substances.

Potential Liability

Any articles that may impose liability, or their return is questionable or controversial, will not be returned to the finder, including:

- keys;
- credit cards or other documents;
- firearms and other weapons;
- any article that is registered or held under a permit; and
- dangerous substances.

Monitoring/Authority

Authority is delegated to the Chief Constable pursuant to section 67 of the *Community Charter – Disposal of Property in Police Possession*.