

TRAINING BULLETIN

Number 160

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

December 2020

ACT 134 OF 2020

INCREASE IN TRAINING SURCHARGE

On November 25, 2020 Governor Wolf signed into law Act 134 which increases the training surcharge collected by counties in support of the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Program.

Act 134 consolidates the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Act (P.L. 3, No. 2) into Title 44 (Law and Justice). In addition, Act 134 increases the surcharge fees for service of any complaint, summons, writ or other legal paper Sheriffs' are required to serve or post. It also requires minimum Sheriff training standards for assessing the lethality risk of domestic violence incidents.

For counties of the first and second class, where the Prothonotary collects the fee, the fee will increase as follows:

- Beginning January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, the surcharge will be \$17.
- Beginning January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, the surcharge will be \$19.
- Beginning January 1, 2023, and thereafter, the surcharge will be \$21.

For all sheriffs' offices, the fee will increase as follows:

- Beginning January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, the surcharge will be \$16.
- Beginning January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, the surcharge will be \$18.
- Beginning January 1, 2023, and thereafter, the surcharge will be \$20.

As increased revenue becomes available, the Board will evaluate and, when able, renew paying reimbursements beginning with those first requested after the payment freeze.

Act 134 also contains an amendment requiring domestic violence lethality assessment training, which is a tool designed to better identify and serve at-risk victims. The Board is exploring and will provide more information on the training in the near future.

These changes will begin to take affect on January 1, 2021.



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