

ACLU of California Smart Surveillance Guide  
Body Camera Use Policy Assessment Tool

Body Camera Use Policy Requirements		In this policy?
Purpose of the technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the policy specifically list the purpose(s) of the surveillance technology in addressing a problem?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Requires recording of all interactions with public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must all interactions with the public be recorded (with strictly limited exceptions)? <i>Note: limited exceptions, such as for victims of sexual assault or for recording inside the home, is OK as long as the officer obtains clear, on-camera permission to stop recording.</i></li> </ul>	YES/NO
Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a requirement that notice be provide to people being recorded, where possible?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is use of cameras to conduct surveillance of First Amendment protected speech, associations, or religion specifically prohibited?</li> <li>Are uses of body camera footage for unrelated purposes, including facial recognition, prohibited?</li> </ul>	YES/NO YES/NO
Data access restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a description of who may access or use the collected footage or information?</li> <li>Are officers and the department prohibited from editing or deleting inadvertent or accidental recordings (other than where required by a retention policy)?</li> </ul>	YES/NO YES/NO
Officer review of footage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are officers involved in critical incidents such as shootings, facing misconduct charges, or otherwise under investigation prohibited from viewing footage prior to writing reports or being interviewed?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a description of safeguards that protect footage from unauthorized access while in storage, such as encryption or technical access controls?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Data Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there standards and limits for retention of footage?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a description of how members of the public, including criminal defendants and subjects of footage, can access and obtain footage?</li> <li>Is footage of public importance (such as those related to use of force or officer involved shootings) required to be made public?</li> </ul>	YES/NO YES/NO
Third party data sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there limits on what footage can be shared with third parties (e.g., other cities or counties)?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is training required for officers or employees who will use the body cameras?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Auditing and oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there requirements for auditing the camera program, such as internal recordkeeping, randomized audits, or via third party oversight?</li> </ul>	YES/NO
Legally enforceable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there enforceable disciplinary consequences for a failure to follow the policy?</li> </ul>	YES/NO