

## SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ORDER

**DATE/TIME:** DECEMBER 06, 2023 0530 HOURS  
**NUMBER:** OR 23-25  
**SUBJECT:** PORTABLE HARD DRIVES ON SDPD COMPUTERS  
**SCOPE:** ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT  
**DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE AFFECTED:** DP 1.45

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**Portions of this document are deemed by the San Diego Police Department to be records of security procedures and are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA), Government Code Section 7923.600**

Digital devices continue to evolve at an exponential rate and have been increasingly utilized for evidence of criminal acts. As part of investigations into these criminal acts, digital devices are being downloaded more than ever before for potential evidence of crimes. The danger with downloads of unvetted devices is the potential of injecting viruses or ransomware that compromise law enforcement computers when an evidentiary copy is made and plugged into networked computers.

In an effort to prevent viruses, ransomware, or other digital dangers from being brought onto the SDPD network and computers, **effective immediately**, any digital devices that are downloaded by the SDPD Phone Lab or via the Cellebrite Evidence Recovery Room shall be downloaded to a portable flash drive or hard drive digital storage device labeled with a red sticker that states, **(Deleted – records of security)**. (See Figure 1).

These digital storage devices **shall not be viewed on SDPD LAN accessible computers** and shall only be reviewed on SDPD standalone computers, located in most investigative unit offices and the Cellebrite Evidence Recovery Room. If you are unsure of whether the computer is standalone or not, please contact a unit Detective Sergeant or the SDPD Phone Lab.

Department personnel shall not review unvetted, suspicious, or unknown origin digital storage devices via LAN accessible computers and shall instead contact the Regional Computer Forensics Lab (RCFL) for review and vetting of the device.

If you have any questions, please contact the SDPD Help Desk.

Figure 1

**(Deleted – records of security).**

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Please read at squad conferences and give a copy to all personnel.