



## MCB/OMD Operational Administrative Policy – Camera Use

DRAFT for Review and Approval 7/03/2024, Effective 8/1/2024  
Review before 9/2026

**PURPOSE:** It is the policy of Medical Control Board and the Office of the Medical Director to protect information in relation to emergency scenes and patients. The purpose of this policy is to identify parameters for taking photos during emergency scene operations and the security of such photos.

### 1.0 Who is permitted to photograph the scene?

All personnel are permitted to photograph an incident scene so long as the photograph is taken with a OMD issued camera.

a. Personal devices: cell phone cameras, video cameras, digital cameras and film cameras are not permitted to take on scene photos at any time by any member.

### 2.0 What scene content is permissible to photograph with OMD equipment?

- a. Mechanism of Injury at a motor vehicle collision.
- b. Patient care procedures without identifiable features.
- c. Rescue situations.
- d. Fire scene photography.

### 3.0 Where is scene photography permissible?

- a. Public scenes.
- b. Homes & Businesses with proper permission from IC or homeowner.
- c. Photos inside the patient compartment of an ambulance are **NOT** permitted.

### 4.0 When is scene photography permissible?

- a. Motor vehicle collisions.
- b. Rescue situations.
- c. Fire Scenes.

### 5.0 Why scene photography is valuable to the OMD:

Photographs of an incident scene are used by the OMD in the following ways:

a. Training: Photos of specific on scene situations, conditions and equipment use are a valuable resource for teaching emergency personnel techniques and methods.



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- b. Investigation: Photos are used to help accident investigators determine what happened and how.
- c. Patient Care: Mechanism of injury photos can be valuable to the receiving emergency room doctor.
- d. Incident Documentation: Photos are taken to document the progression of an incident.
- e. Post Incident Reviews: Photos are taken to assist in re-creating the incident and timeline for training purposes.

### OWNERSHIP

- 1.0 The Medical Control Board and the Office of the Medical Director own all images taken on scene.
- 2.0 U.S. Copyright law states that copyright protection is granted to the creator except work created by an independent contractor and *work prepared by an employee within the scope of their employment*.

### IMAGE CONTROL

- 1.0 Images taken with a digital photographic device must be removed from the memory card of said device on the next regular business day; all images must be catalogued and stored in a secure OMD data base.
- 2.0 Incident photos may be recorded to a compact disc and placed in the incident report file.
- 3.0 No personnel shall copy and/or retain electronic photos of an incident scene without the expressed consent of the Medical Director or the Medical Control Board.
- 4.0 Photos may be used on the official OMD/MCB web page so long as they do not expose identifying patient features.
- 5.0 Incident scene photos are not permitted on member's My Space, Facebook or other personal web pages or social media sites.
- 6.0 Release of photos is subject to HIPAA laws as well as the MCB's Access to Public Records Policy.