

Sarnia Police Service Board Policy

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Vehicle Pursuits	February 27, 2025	
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A <u>Legislative Authority</u>

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by Section 10 of the *CSPA*.

Subsection 38 (2) of the **CSPA** provides that a Police Service Board shall establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing.

Section 3 of O. Reg. 397/23: Vehicle Pursuits requires a Police Services Board to have a policy on vehicle pursuits that is consistent with the Regulation.

Sections 4 and 5 of 0. Reg. 397/23: Vehicle Pursuits requires the Chief of Police to establish procedures on the tactics, management and control of vehicle pursuits.

B Policy Statement

1. The Sarnia Police Board recognizes that vehicle pursuits are serious in nature, and that ensuring the safety of the citizens of the City of Sarnia and the safety of the Service members are paramount in all aspects of police decision-making, including with respect to vehicle pursuits. It is therefore the policy of the Board that such pursuits be conducted only in accordance with the procedure set out by the Chief of Police as established in accordance with **Sections 4** and **5 of Ontario Regulation 397/23: Vehicle Pursuits**.

C <u>Board Policy</u>

- 1. It is the policy of the Sarnia Police Service Board that the Chief of Police will establish written procedures on vehicle pursuits that are consistent with **Ontario Regulation 397/23: Vehicle Pursuits**.
- 2. The established written procedures shall:
 - (a) Address the management and control of Vehicle Pursuits; and
 - (b) Set out tactics that may be used as an alternative to Vehicle Pursuits and tactics that may be used for following or stopping a fleeing motor vehicle;
 - (c) Describe the responsibilities of police officers, dispatchers, communications supervisors and road supervisors; and
 - (d) Describe the equipment available to the Service for implementing alternative tactics.
- 3. The Chief shall ensure that:
 - (a) A multi-jurisdictional protocol is developed with other police agencies dealing with issues relating to Vehicle Pursuits;
 - (b) Members involved with Vehicle Pursuits have the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform this function, and in particular, are trained in accordance with the requirements of **O. Reg. 397/23: Vehicle Pursuits**;
 - (c) Members receive training about the intentional contact between vehicles consistent with the requirements of **Section 11** of the said **0. Reg. 397/23**;
 - (d) Members have successfully completed the required Ministry accredited training;
 - (e) Members involved with Vehicle Pursuits have available and use appropriate tools and equipment in performing this function;
 - (f) An appropriate number of police vehicles are equipped with tire deflation devices and that officers are trained on their use; and
 - (g) The particulars of each Vehicle Pursuit are recorded on a form and in a manner approved by the Ministry.
- 4. Appointing officials or local commanders who have appointed an officer under the *Interprovincial Policing Act, 2009*, shall ensure that particulars of each Vehicle Pursuit

engaged by an officer appointed under that **Act** are recorded on a form and in a manner approved by the Ministry.

- 5. The Chief shall make a written report to the Board within 30 days immediately following any Vehicle Pursuit in which:
 - (a) There has been property damage;
 - (b) There has been a personal injury or death;
 - (c) The procedures with respect to Vehicle Pursuits were not followed;
 - (d) In any other circumstance where, in the opinion of the Chief, there is a significant issue or potential liability to the Board or the Service.
- 6. The said report shall disclose whether the Vehicle Pursuit incident was reported to the Special Investigations Unit.
- 7. The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30th of each year. The report shall include:
 - (a) A summary of the written procedures regarding Vehicle Pursuits;
 - (b) Confirmation of compliance with the procedures regarding Vehicle Pursuits; and
 - (c) The total number of Vehicle Pursuits undertaken in the previous 12 month period ending July 31 of that year, and a summary of each.