



Credibility Disclosure Notification

FORM

13E

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August 2025

HB25-1136
16-2.5-502(2)(c)(I) C.R.S.

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Tom Nestor

Agency Name

Name of Agency Executive Submitting Form 13

(719) 743-2426

sheriff@lincolnsheriff.net

Agency Executive Phone Number

Agency Executive Email Address

Bantock

Cory

Peace Officer - Last Name

Peace Officer - First Name

Middle Name

Limon

CO 80828

Peace Officer Last Known Personal Address

City

State

Zip

Peace Officer Personal Email Address (if known)

Peace Officer Personal Cell Phone (if known)

Date(s) of Employment: March 1, 2026-August 13, 2026

Date(s) of Incident: August 12, 2026

Peace Officer Date of Birth: _____

Colorado PID# CO-006-139

Please confirm sustained findings indicating the peace officer, as defined in section 16-2.5-501(3) C.R.S.:

- ☒ Knowingly made an untruthful statement concerning a material fact or knowingly omitted a material fact on a criminal justice record, while testifying under oath or during an internal affairs investigation or administrative investigation and disciplinary process.
- ☐ Demonstrated a bias based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, or another protected class.
- ☐ Tampered with or fabricated evidence.
- ☐ Been convicted of any crime involving dishonesty, been charged with any felony or any crime involving dishonesty, or violated any policy of the law enforcement agency regarding dishonesty.

Brief Explanation (must include the internal investigation case number):

LCISO IA# 26-01 Cory came to firearms training with alcohol on his breath, he was asked directly if he had been drinking, Cory denied any alcohol use. A PBT was administered and showed a positive result. Cory then admitted to drinking before his arrival the the range. Cory denied alcohol usage to two Sergeants as the investigation was beginning.

Please retain documentation of investigative details for possible future review. Do not need to include with form.

PURSUANT TO 24-31-321(3)(a), THE HEAD OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, DECLARES THEY HAVE EXAMINED THIS AFFIDAVIT AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS AND, TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THEY ARE TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE.

I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT, UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, ANY FALSE STATEMENT, MISSTATEMENT, OR INACCURACY MAY RESULT IN REVOCATION OF MY CERTIFICATION, AS WELL AS CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.


Agency Executive's Signature

9/1/26

Date



**LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

To: Deputy Sheriff Cory Bantock
From: Captain Michael L. Yowell
Date: August 13, 2026
Re: Internal Affairs Investigation — Alcohol/Firearms Incident

Deputy Bantock:

Following my review of the administrative investigation into your conduct on August 12, 2026, I have reviewed the available evidence and the applicable policies of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

Based upon that review, I have determined that your conduct constitutes serious misconduct and violations of multiple Lincoln County Sheriff's Office policies. Accordingly, as the Captain, your employment with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is terminated effective August 13, 2026.

INCIDENT

On August 12, 2026, you attended the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office firearms range and participated in a course of fire while possessing and exercising control over a firearm.

During the firearms training, Corporal Snover detected an odor consistent with an alcoholic beverage coming from your breath/person. Corporal Snover reported his observations to Sergeant Dustin Cunningham.

Sergeant Cunningham independently detected the same odor, who alerted your supervisor, Sergeant Dale Rostron.

Sergeants Cunningham and Rostron subsequently contacted you regarding the observations and asked whether you had consumed alcohol prior to coming to work and/or the firearms range. You advised the supervisors that you had not consumed alcohol.

Based upon the independent observations of the supervisors, Sergeant Rostron offered you a portable breath test as a screening tool pursuant to Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Policy 200. The screening produced a result of 0.038.

During the investigation, you admitted to Sergeant Rostron that you had, in fact, consumed alcohol prior to arriving at the firearms range. You specifically admitted that you had consumed a shooter of liquor on your way to the range and stated that you did so to, "calm your nerves."

Following notification of the circumstances, I directed that you be removed from possession of the firearm and removed from the firearms range. Sergeant Rostron transported you to your residence. Your vehicle remained at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office firearms range.



SHERIFF

LINCOLN COUNTY, COLORADO

The firearm was taken from your possession by Sergeant Cunningham, secured, and subsequently returned to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Armory.

The actions taken by the supervisors were consistent with Policy 200.6, which requires a supervisor who reasonably believes, based upon objective facts, that a member is impaired by alcohol or drugs to prevent the member from continuing work and ensure that the member is safely transported away from the Office.

POLICY VIOLATIONS

1. Policy 109.5.11 — Intoxicants

Policy 109.5.11 prohibits reporting for work or being at work while intoxicated or when a member's ability to perform assigned duties is impaired due to the use of alcohol, medication, or drugs.

The policy also prohibits possession or use of alcohol at any work site or while on duty, except as authorized in the performance of an official assignment.

You admitted that you consumed a shooter of liquor while traveling to the Sheriff's Office firearms range. You then participated in a course of fire while possessing and exercising control over a firearm and subsequently produced a portable breath screening result of 0.038.

Your conduct violated the requirements of Policy 109.5.11.

The circumstances are particularly serious because the conduct occurred while you were participating in firearms training and exercising control over a firearm.

Finding: SUSTAINED.

2. Policy 200 — Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace

Policy 200 requires members to report for work in an appropriate mental and physical condition and prohibits members from possessing or using alcohol on Office premises or Office time. The policy also requires members to notify supervisors when they observe evidence that another on-duty member is impaired due to drug or alcohol use.

Your conduct was inconsistent with these requirements.

Your admission that you consumed alcohol immediately before arriving at the firearms range, combined with your participation in firearms training and the subsequent 0.038 screening result, establishes conduct inconsistent with the Office's drug and alcohol-free workplace requirements.

Finding: SUSTAINED.



3. Policy 220 — Fitness for Duty

Policy 220 requires members to maintain a physical condition sufficiently enough to safely and properly perform the essential duties of their position and requires members to remain alert, attentive, and capable of performing their assigned responsibilities while working.

Participating in firearms training after consuming alcohol, under circumstances giving two supervisors reasonable grounds to believe you were impaired by alcohol, was inconsistent with these requirements.

Your statement that you consumed the alcohol specifically to “calm your nerves” further demonstrates that the alcohol consumption was intentional and occurred immediately before your participation in firearms training.

Finding: SUSTAINED.

4. Policy 109.5.10 — Safety

Policy 109.5.10 identifies failure to observe Office safety standards or safe working practices as grounds for disciplinary action and specifically addresses unsafe firearm or dangerous-weapon handling.

Firearms training exists to develop proficiency in the safe use and care of firearms. Policy 306.1 establishes that purpose.

Participating in firearms training after consuming alcohol created an unacceptable safety risk to yourself and the other Sheriff's Office personnel present at the range.

The risk was sufficiently serious that supervisors were required to intervene, remove the firearm from your possession, terminate your participation in the firearms training, and arrange transportation to your residence.

Finding: SUSTAINED.

5. Policy 109.5.1 — Laws, Rules and Orders

Policy 109.5.1 identifies violation of any Office policy, procedure, rule, order, directive, or requirement as a basis for disciplinary action.

The sustained violations identified above constitute violations of Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Policy.

Finding: SUSTAINED.

6. Policy 109.5.8 — Truthfulness

During the initial supervisory inquiry, you advised Sergeants Rostron that you had not consumed alcohol prior to coming to work and/or the firearms range.



During the subsequent investigation, you admitted that you had consumed a shooter of liquor on your way to the range.

Your initial statement to supervisors was therefore knowingly false.

The Office's truthfulness requirements prohibit false or misleading statements to supervisors and identify untruthfulness and misrepresentation of material facts as grounds for discipline.

Finding: SUSTAINED.

SERIOUSNESS OF THE MISCONDUCT

This incident is not being treated as a simple allegation of alcohol consumption.

The seriousness of your conduct arises from the totality of the circumstances.

You are a Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Detention Deputy entrusted with firearms, law enforcement authority, and a responsibility for the safety and security of others.

You came to a Sheriff's Office firearms range and participated in a course of fire while possessing and exercising control over a department issued firearm.

Two supervisors independently detected an odor consistent with an alcoholic beverage coming from your breath or person.

When questioned directly by supervisors regarding alcohol consumption, you denied having consumed alcohol.

A subsequent portable breath screening produced a result of 0.038.

You subsequently admitted that you had consumed a shooter of liquor on your way to the range and stated that you did so to, "calm your nerves."

This admission establishes that your alcohol consumption was intentional, occurred immediately before your participation in firearms training, and was done for the stated purpose of altering your emotional state before engaging in firearms training.

As a result of the circumstances, supervisors were required to remove the firearm from your possession, prevent you from continuing the firearms training, and arrange transportation to your residence.

The Sheriff's Office simply cannot tolerate conduct that places deputies, other personnel, or the public at unnecessary risk, particularly conduct involving alcohol and firearms.

The trust placed in Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Deputies requires sound judgment, personal responsibility, fitness for duty, honesty, and an unwavering commitment to safety. Your conduct failed to meet those standards.



SHERIFF

LINCOLN COUNTY, COLORADO

PROBATIONARY STATUS

You are currently a probationary employee of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, having been employed by the Office since March 1, 2026.

Policy 112.14 specifically states that probationary employees may be disciplined and/or released from employment without regard to the procedures applicable to non-probationary employees and without notice or cause. The policy further provides that a probationary employee released for misconduct may be afforded an opportunity to clear their name through a limited liberty-interest hearing before the Sheriff or authorized designee.

Your probationary status is an additional consideration in determining the appropriate employment action. However, this termination is not based merely upon your probationary status. It is based upon the serious misconduct established during the investigation, including alcohol use immediately before firearms training, participation in a firearms course while possessing a firearm, the resulting safety concerns, and your knowingly false statement to supervisors.

CRIMINAL CONSIDERATION

The Sheriff's Office has separately considered whether the circumstances warrant referral for investigation regarding Prohibited Use of a Weapon, (C.R.S.: 18-12-106(1)(d)).

Nothing in this disciplinary decision is intended to decide criminal guilt.

The administrative decision is based upon the Sheriff's Office policies and the evidence obtained during the administrative investigation. It is done independently and does not require a criminal conviction or upon establishing a specific blood-alcohol threshold.

Any criminal investigation or prosecutorial determination will be handled separately and independently from this administrative employment decision.

DISCIPLINARY DECISION

After reviewing all the circumstances, the applicable policies, and the evidence available to me, I have determined that the misconduct demonstrated in this investigation is serious enough to declare the most serious disciplinary action available.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office must be able to trust that employees entrusted with firearms will report for duty fit for duty, exercise sound judgment, comply with safety requirements, and provide truthful information to supervisors.

This incident represents a serious breach of that trust.



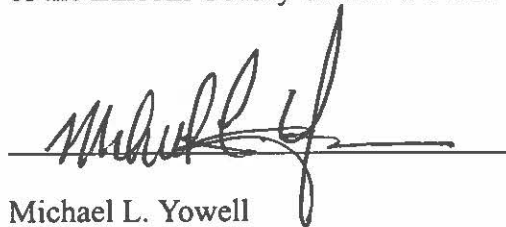
The Office's disciplinary policy identifies termination as an available form of discipline and provides that disciplinary measures are not required to be imposed in a progressive sequence.

Given the seriousness of misconduct, the significant safety implications of alcohol use in connection with firearms, the intentional use of alcohol consumption, your knowingly false statement to supervisors, and your probationary status, I have determined that termination is the appropriate disciplinary action.

Therefore, I am terminating your employment effective August 13, 2026.

You are directed to immediately surrender all Sheriff's Office property in your possession, including any badge, identification, keys, equipment, access credentials, firearms, ammunition, and other issued property, as directed by members of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Command Staff.

This decision is based upon the conduct established during the administrative investigation and the requirements of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office policies.



Michael L. Yowell
Captain
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
103 3rd Avenue / P.O. Box 10
Hugo, Colorado 80821
(719) 743-2846

8/13/2026

Date