



## Case Study Block 5 Ethics

**TRAINEE**

**Deputy Aaron Gates**

### **Trainee Bio**

Deputy Gates is a 21-year-old male with a high school education. He lives with his parents. He has worked as a clerk in an auto parts store since high school, but has always wanted to be a deputy sheriff. Deputy Gates put himself through an extended basic police academy while still working as an assistant manager at the auto parts store. He was an average student in the academy. The academy staff noted that while he gave 100% effort at all times, he was only able to graduate in the middle of his class.

### **Scenario Description - Ethics**

Deputy Gates is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of training and has been performing above average. During the beginning of your shift, as you enter the rear lot where the patrol cars are parked, you notice four trainees, including Gates, standing in the lot. Three of the trainees are laughing aloud. You walk to your unit and ask Deputy Gates if he has done the vehicle inspection, and he replies he has. As you drive out of the lot, you ask Gates what he and the other trainees were laughing about. He tells you it was just one of the other trainees joking around.

Later in the shift, you meet with another FTO during a call for service. He tells you that he has to bring his trainee in to be counseled by the Sergeant. The FTO tells you that his trainee placed a dead possum in the back seat of one of the other units for another trainee to find during the vehicle inspection.

You respond back to the station and review the rear lot's CCTV system video. You see that while Deputy Gates was not directly involved, he watched as the other trainee placed the possum in the patrol unit. You meet with Gates and ask him why he did not tell you about the possum when you asked him earlier. He stated he was sorry, but he did not want to "snitch" on the other deputy.

Discuss how you would handle this situation.