

**Vermont Department of Public Safety - Vermont State Police**  
**Synopses of internal investigations for the period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020**  
**Released January 19, 2021**

Background: In an effort to further increase transparency in operations, beginning in January 2021 and continuing twice annually in January and July, the Department of Public Safety and Vermont State Police, with the support of the independent State Police Advisory Commission, will begin releasing synopses of all internal investigations. These synopses will be compiled in six month increments to balance timeliness with the need to have complete investigations and resolutions prior to release.

Notes:

- A. "Internally generated" indicates the complaint was made by a co-worker / employee of the Department.

"Externally generated" indicates the complaint was made by someone outside the department, most often a member of the public involved in an event or investigation.

- B. All investigations, details and outcomes are reviewed by the State Police Advisory Commission pursuant to their oversight role outlined in state statute.

1. Complainant: Externally generated - January 2020  
Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper did not return money to a citizen. Investigation revealed that a trooper did not take possession of the money.  
Outcome: Finding that no policies had been violated.
2. Complainant: Internally generated - January 2020  
Synopsis: Investigation revealed that a trooper experienced a negligent accidental discharge of his firearm while attending firearms training.  
Outcome: Finding of "Negligent Discharge of Firearm." Employee disciplined for violating this policy – Letter of Reprimand.
3. Complainant: Internally generated - January 2020  
Synopsis: Investigation revealed that a trooper failed to report an on-duty motor vehicle accident in which he was involved.  
Outcome: Finding of "Violation of Rules." Employee disciplined for violating this policy – 4 days loss of annual leave.
4. Complainant: Internally generated - January 2020  
Synopsis: A trooper reported that she struck an intoxicated male next to whom she was seated during a flight to Burlington, VT. Investigation determined that the trooper, who self-reported the event and did not identify herself as a law enforcement officer, struck this male in physical defense of herself. Self-defense was confirmed by independent third-party witness.  
Outcome: Finding that no policies were violated.
5. Complainant: Internally generated - February 2020

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper mistreated another trooper while training them during the field training process. Investigation determined that mistreatment occurred but was isolated to this trainer and was not practiced by other trainers or condoned by supervisors.

Outcome: Finding of a "Conduct" violation. Employee was disciplined for violating this policy – Letter of Reprimand.

6. Complainant: Externally generated - February 2020

Synopsis: Inquiry into allegation that a trooper was in personal possession of evidence. Investigation determined that the trooper was not in personal possession of evidence.

Outcome: Finding that no policies were violated.

7. Complainant: Internally generated - March 2020

Synopsis: Investigation revealed that a trooper consumed alcohol off duty in a manner that discredited the Vermont State Police.

Outcome: Finding of "Conduct" and "Alcohol Off Duty." Employee disciplined for violating those policies – Letter of Reprimand and 1-day suspension without pay.

8. Complainant: Internally generated - May 2020

Synopsis: Investigation revealed that a trooper acted in violation of Governor Scott's Executive Order related to COVID-19 by attending a business (exercise facility) that had been ordered closed.

Outcome: Finding of "Conduct." Employee was disciplined for violating this policy – 1-day suspension without pay.

9. Complainant: Externally generated - May 2020

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that troopers illegally seized and searched a citizen's residence. Investigation revealed that the troopers did not violate policy when conducting their investigation.

Outcome: Finding that no policies were violated.

10. Complainant: Externally generated - June 2020

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper did not take proper precautions to prohibit the potential spread of COVID-19 during an investigation. Investigation revealed that the trooper failed to adhere to the health precautions established by the State Police in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcome: Finding of "Conduct." Employee was disciplined for violating this policy – 2 days loss of annual leave, Letter of Reprimand and remedial training.