

Vermont Department of Public Safety - Vermont State Police
Synopses of internal investigations for the period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023

Released March 18, 2024

Background: In an effort to further increase transparency in operations, beginning in January 2021 and continuing twice annually, the Department of Public Safety and the Vermont State Police, with the support of the independent State Police Advisory Commission, began releasing synopses of all internal investigations. These synopses are 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 its oversight role outlined in state statute.
- C. Pursuant to Title 20 VSA 2403, those cases required to be reported to the Vermont Criminal Justice Council are identified by notation.
- D. The Report covers cases that have been resolved during this designated time period.

	Total	Founded	Unfounded	Other
Internally Generated Cases	13	11	1	1
Externally Generated Cases	5	0	2	3

1. Externally generated – January 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper participated in an off-duty physical altercation.

Outcome: The member resigned before the completed investigation could be reviewed and adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

2. Internally generated – January 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated the Vehicle Pursuit Policy.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper issued a Letter of Reprimand.

3. Internally generated – January 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper committed various misdemeanor and felony crimes related to the theft of evidence and various code of conduct violations on and off duty.

Outcome: Member resigned - pending adjudication of criminal prosecution. Case reported to the Vermont Criminal Justice Council.

4. Internally generated – January 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated policy in response to missing persons investigations.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper issued a Letter of Reprimand.

5. Internally generated – February 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated the Vehicle Pursuit Policy.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper issued a Letter of Reprimand and loss of two (2) days Annual Leave.

6. Externally generated – February 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that troopers engaged in unbecoming conduct while off-duty.

Outcome: Trooper 1: Member resigned before the completed investigation could be reviewed and adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.
Trooper 2: Member resigned before the completed investigation could be reviewed and adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

7. Internally generated – February 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper engaged in unbecoming conduct with colleagues and engaged in insubordination.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for insubordination. Trooper issued a Letter of Reprimand and loss of two (2) days Annual Leave.

8. Internally generated – March 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper experienced a negligent discharge of a department-issued firearm.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Negligent Discharge.” Trooper received four (4) days suspension without pay.

9. Internally generated – March 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated the Vehicle Pursuit Policy.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper received loss of one (1) day Annual Leave.

10. Internally generated – March 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated the Vehicle Pursuit Policy.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper received loss of two (2) days Annual Leave.

11. Externally generated – April 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that two troopers used excessive force during the arrest of a subject.

Outcome: Unfounded. Investigation revealed the troopers’ use of force was within policy standards.

12. Internally generated – May 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper failed to participate in a court process.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper received loss of two (2) days Annual Leave.

13. Internally generated – May 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated the Vehicle Pursuit Policy.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules.” Trooper received a Letter of Reprimand.

14. Internally generated – May 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that three troopers engaged in a search that violated policy.

Outcome: Trooper 1: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules” with loss of one (1) day Annual Leave.
Trooper 2: Finding of a policy violation for “Violation of Rules” with loss of one (1) day Annual Leave.
Trooper 3: Unfounded.

15. Externally generated – June 2023

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper was participating in a non-work-related activity while on duty.

Outcome: Unfounded.