

Bellevue Police Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Bellevue Police Department has established guidelines for its personnel to address common concerns about the department, its officers, and the agency's involvement with immigration enforcement actions by federal authorities. While immigration enforcement incidents have the potential to create confusion and escalation, this department continues its commitment and mission on enforcing state and local laws and delivering a safe environment for all of its community members.

Below is an FAQ to help answer some of the questions our community members have expressed as it relates the Bellevue Police Department's role with U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):

What is the Bellevue Police Department's role with the federal government's new approach to its immigration policies?

Bellevue Police's primary mission is to investigate state and local crimes and keep our community safe. This is why Bellevue officers will continue to investigate state-level criminal offenses according to Washington State Law ([RCW 10.93.160](#) – law enforcement agency restrictions regarding immigration & citizenship status) which emphasizes that enforcement of immigration laws falls under the federal government's jurisdiction.



[WATCH: Bellevue Police release new video highlighting agency's immigration policies](#)

Click above to watch a video posted in January 2025 about the agency's approach to the federal government's new immigration policies.

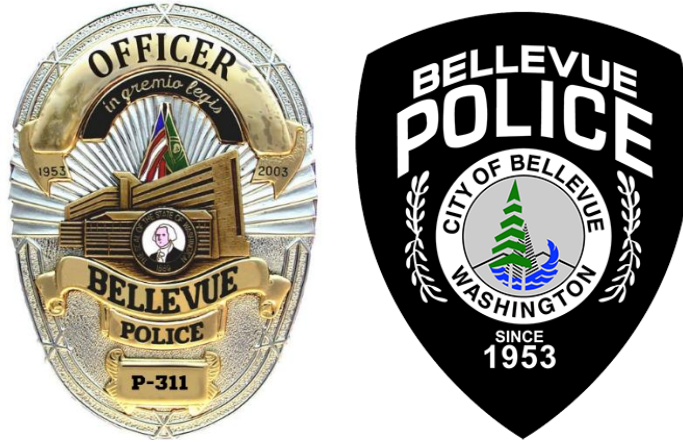
What does a Bellevue Police Officer look like while on duty?

Bellevue Police Officers wear a standard navy blue uniform and have identifiable information on public display, including their last name and badge. An officer's badge also has their badge number imprinted on it.

Washington law requires all state law enforcement agencies have policies that their police officer's uniforms clearly display the officer's name and other information that members of the public can see, and so other agencies can identify them as police officers.



Above are examples on what a Bellevue Police Officer could look like while they are on duty. Below are examples of the badge and patch a Bellevue Police Officer will display on their uniforms.



Are Bellevue Police Officers required to identify themselves by name and/or badge number when asked by a community member?

Yes. Per department policy, Bellevue Police Officers strive to achieve an unbiased policing practice for its community members and therefore are required to provide their name and badge number to individuals when conducting police work. This practice aims to prevent the perception of bias during traffic stops or other calls for service.

Will the Bellevue Police Department assist federal authorities with its immigration operations?

The Bellevue Police Department does not coordinate or participate in federal civil or administrative immigration operations. Such operations are the responsibility of the federal agencies - Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

However, should someone interfere with federal operations or cause a disturbance that threatens the safety of the ICE Agents and/or overall public during federal operations, local law enforcement may hold individuals accountable according to state and local laws.

Do Bellevue Police Officers wear masks during their patrols or operations?

Bellevue Police Officers do not wear masks or materials that cover up their face during calls for service. However, and while not common practice, officers may wear gas masks or protective masks in special circumstances during safety-related operations. An example of this case would be if there is a known risk of airborne hazards present during an event (e.g. pandemic, smoke, gas).

What can I do if I believe a community member is unlawfully being detained by federal authorities?

Bellevue Police ask all community members to call 911 if they believe they are witnessing or are a victim of a crime. The department will respond to the call for service and will conduct a preliminary investigation of the incident – which could include contacting federal authorities to confirm official business.

What will Bellevue Police do if an individual is found to be impersonating law enforcement in order to kidnap another community member?

If Bellevue Police determine an individual is falsely identifying themselves as law enforcement in order to carry out an unlawful action, they will be investigated for violating [RCW 9A.60.040](#) (Criminal impersonation in the first degree) – a Class C felony offense.

Please visit the City of Bellevue’s “[Immigrant and Refugee Resources](#)” website for a full list of services the City can offer its community members.