

**Brief reason for the revision:**

The Travis County District Attorney's Office stated they are no longer processing cash seizures of less than \$5,000.

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## 306 Search and Seizure

### 306.13 ASSET FORFEITURE GUIDELINES

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for asset forfeiture cases. The Austin Police Department believes the practice of asset forfeiture is not to be used as a form of punishment but is remedial in nature.

- (a) When seizing any property, officers shall follow [GO 306 Search and Seizure](#) ~~policy set forth in GO 306.~~
- (b) Officers shall follow GO 618 [Property and Evidence Collection Procedures](#) when submitting currency into evidence intended for a civil forfeiture case.
- (c) Officers who have seized property intended for a civil forfeiture case shall add ~~the offense~~ Title Code 8205 – Asset Forfeitures ~~to the offense.~~
- (d) The minimum amount of cash authorized for seizure is ~~\$2,000~~ [\\$5,000](#).
- (e) [Any currency seized by patrol needs prior approval from the on-call narcotics detective.](#)
- ~~(d)~~(f) [Any investigative unit may seize less than the minimum amount allowed by this policy with the approval from the Asset Forfeiture Detective or the on-call Organized Crime Sergeant.](#)
- ~~(e)~~(g) Officers shall contact the Asset Forfeiture Detective ~~via email~~ at [APDForfeiture@austintexas.gov](mailto:APDForfeiture@austintexas.gov) for guidance prior to the seizure of anything, other than US currency, ~~that is~~ intended for a civil forfeiture case.
- ~~(f)~~(h) Officers are encouraged to contact the Asset Forfeiture Detective for guidance regarding the seizure of property, or to provide any other assistance needed.
- (i) The Asset Forfeiture Detective shall review all reports involving property seized for civil forfeiture, conduct follow-up investigations, complete appropriate paperwork, and handle all seized property in compliance with department policy, and state and federal law.
- ~~(g)~~(j) [Personnel assigned to a federal task force shall follow the protocols and guidelines established by the sponsoring federal agency when seizing money pursuant to a task force-specific investigation.](#)