

Court of Ages

LAW AND POLICY ENFORCEMENT

Community is defined as several people associated by free-will choice. Communities may be stationary or migratory; located in physical proximity or virtual. The varieties of ways communities are configured is limited only by the imagination.

Communities are no bigger than required for everyone's voice to be heard. A people is only as free as its individual members. Everyone is free; everyone is heard.

The "ecclesia" is a public meeting of community members to discuss and decide upon matters concerning the community as a whole. The community agrees on how often and where to hold ecclesia meetings.

Communities commission their own sheriff who is committed to natural law as expressed in the Court of Ages "Law of the Land" Handbook.

A "sheriff" is a commissioned protector charged with facilitating due process by Natural Law for the community by whom they are commissioned. Qualifications, duties, training and accountability are the responsibility of the ecclesia. The ecclesia replaces their sheriff if or when it is deemed appropriate to do so. A sheriff accepts the role of sheriff by free-will-choice.

The sheriff's job description is agreed upon by the community and aligns with Natural Law as expressed in the COURT OF AGES Law of the Land Handbook. The ecclesia understands and implements the Law of the Land and trains their sheriff accordingly.

A "sheriff's deputy" is a protector appointed by the sheriff to assist in carrying out sheriff's duties. The ecclesia determines whether or not a deputy or deputies are required. Deputies accept the role of deputy by free-will choice.

Natural Law sheriffs call on the local Civilian National Guard (militia) for assistance when required.

The Civilian National Guard answers directly to commissioned natural law sheriffs. The people retain control of their own protection services and procedures at all times. Sheriffs command the local National Guard at the people's discretion.

A policy is a course of action agreed upon and adopted by a community in ecclesia for the protection and well-being of the community. A policy is not a law, is flexible, and therefore may be adjusted when challenged. Communities establish their own guidelines, customs or 'policies' for all aspects of their life together.

Community policies are maintained by free-will choice. One who violates policies is counseled privately by a community member. There are no penalties or punishments for breaking policy.

One who continues to violate community policies after being privately counseled is counseled publicly and transparently by the ecclesia. Communication is key here. Listening to the one who violates community guidelines may provide insight into possible improvements in policies.

One who persists in violating community policies after counseling by the ecclesia may seek another community whose policies are more congruent with their values. A persistent tendency to violate guidelines may indicate incongruence with the character of that particular community.

Communities conduct their lives in a way that encourages compliance with reasonable guidelines and policies. Since guidelines are established by consensus through the ecclesia, complying with policies is naturally encouraged through day-to-day interactions.

A crime is an action or behavior that causes loss or harm. Honoring community policies is expected; but violating community policies is not necessarily a crime. In other words, violating policies does not always result in harm; therefore, it is not necessarily a crime to violate policies.

One who is deemed harmful to humanity is contained in a secured setting away from any potential victims. This setting is conducive to self-reflection and contemplation. Putting criminals in jails or cages is inhumane and unlawful by natural law. The highest concern in dealing with criminals is the safety and well-being of the community.

One who is deemed by their community to be a persistent threat to humanity, expresses no regret, shows no desire for correction and demonstrates no potential for rehabilitation is put to death. The ecclesia is careful to consider all factors and comes to agreement with a clear conscience.

Communities maintain awareness of contiguous community policies and cooperate regarding policies, enforcement and infrastructure. Each community maintains autonomy while considering the impact of their decisions on other communities.

Travelers and those who choose not to participate in a community honor community policies when visiting or passing through a community. Each community posts their guidelines and policies publicly where they are easily accessible to guests.

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COURT OF AGES