



101 Commerce Drive  
Exton, Pennsylvania 19341

Tel: (610) 363-0200  
Fax: (610) 363-6671  
[www.westwhiteland.org](http://www.westwhiteland.org)

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) voted at its meeting in Harrisburg on November 15, 2018 to confirm the West Whiteland Township Police Department as a fully accredited law enforcement agency.

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) Program in 2001. The PCPA originally developed 132 standards that have to be met by any law enforcement agency within the Commonwealth if the agency desires to become accredited.

The Pennsylvania program currently has 140 professional standards that must be met in order to become an accredited police department. To meet these standards, a department must first have policy in place that addresses all 140 standards and 100 sub-sections of these standards. After these policies are in place, the department must then prove it complies with and follows its policies. This is achieved through proofs of compliance such as police reports, photos, videos, observation and interviews, to name a few. These proofs of compliance must cover the previous 12-month period. When the department has built the required files and feels it is in compliance with all standards, it requests an assessment of the department. The assessment is done during a two-day period by three law enforcement professionals from across the state. The assessment team then provides a written report to the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission that will, with a positive report, award accreditation to the police department. Once accredited, the department must submit for reassessment every three years.

West Whiteland Township is among a small percentage of police departments in Pennsylvania to receive PLEAC Accreditation and is just the sixth department in Chester County to receive the distinction.

There are financial benefits to being an accredited law enforcement agency. Accredited agencies can see a decrease in liability insurance as well as reducing risk and exposure to lawsuits.

There are internal benefits to being an accredited agency. Accreditation encourages problem-solving activities within the agency and increasing employee input.

There is also a benefit in community relations. Being an accredited agency extends agency accountability to the public as well as helping to develop methods for providing services to the community.

However, what is most important about becoming accredited is the affirmation that we are doing our best to meet our mission in the service and protection of the community by our commitment to a standard of excellence.