




January 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL INVESTIGATIONS

FROM:   
Robert L. Kwalwasser  
Assistant Inspector General for Investigations

SUBJECT: Interim Guidance on the use of Body Worn Cameras Supporting  
External Agency Investigations  
AIGI Memorandum #22-03

**1. PURPOSE**

This Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (AIGI) memorandum outlines the Office of Investigations interim policy and guidelines regarding the use of external agency body worn cameras (BWC).

The U.S. Department of Justice intends for BWCs to be used by Federal agencies where the use of force is heightened, for example, during the execution of arrest warrants, search/seizure warrants, and other planned operations. BWCs are not intended to be used for general investigative activities such as interviews and surveillance.

These interim guidelines are specific to instances when the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is requested by an outside agency to utilize their BWC. Until a formalized BWC program is implemented at the OIG, Special Agents (SA) will not utilize BWCs unless required as part of a joint investigation.

**2. USE AND APPROVAL**

- A. OIG SAs must receive approval from their Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) prior to using external BWCs.
- B. ASACs must review the respective federal, state, or local agency's BWC requirements before allowing SAs to participate in activities that require the use of BWCs.
- C. Prior to approving OIG SA use of a BWC from an external agency, the ASAC must confirm that the external agency's policy permits the OIG to obtain the video surveillance when necessary for OIG investigations or administrative



actions.

- D. SAs will follow the policies and guidelines of the external agency issuing the BWCs.
- E. BWCs are not intended for use during subject interviews.
- F. Electronic recordings of interviews must be in accordance with IGM 314, Interviews and Warnings.
- G. Video/audio recording of subjects by confidential informants or during undercover operations must be in accordance with IGM 383, Confidential Informants, and IGM 384, Undercover Operations respectively.
- H. The use of BWCs outside of the intended purposes listed above requires Executive Special Agent in Charge approval.
- I. If the use conflicts with current OIG policy, a written policy deviation approval is required by the AIGI.
- J. For additional guidance, submit an Office of General Counsel helpdesk ticket.

### **3. DOCUMENTATION**

- A. For joint investigations, all BWC video/audio belongs to the external agency issuing the BWCs, and that agency will maintain all the video/audio files.
- B. A Memorandum of Activity (MOA) must be completed and uploaded into CRIMES to document the use of a BWC.
- C. The MOA will include the case number of the agency maintaining the BWC footage.