

# Facial Recognition Technology

## 343.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide South Bend Police Department (SBPD) personnel with guidelines applicable to the implementation of facial recognition technology (FRT). This FRT policy seeks to balance the public safety benefits of this technology with individual privacy. FRT involves the ability to examine and compare distinguishing characteristics of a human face through the use of biometric algorithms contained with a software application. This technology can be a valuable investigative tool to detect and prevent criminal activity, reduce an imminent threat to health and safety, and help in identification of person unable to identify themselves or deceased persons. The Department has established a Facial Recognition program to support the investigative efforts of law enforcement and public safety agencies.

### 343.1.1 DEFINITIONS

**Facial Recognition Technology (FRT):** A biometric software application capable of uniquely identifying or verifying a person by comparing and analyzing patterns based on the person's facial contours.

**Part 1 Violent Crimes:** For the purpose of this directive, Part 1 Violent Crimes are defined as robbery, sexual assault, aggravated assault, or murder.

**Public Domain:** The state of belonging or being available to the public, and therefore not subject to copyright. The term "public domain" refers to creative materials that are not protected by intellectual property laws such as copyright, trademark, or patent laws. The public owns these works, not an individual author or artist. Anyone can use a public domain work without obtaining permission, but no one can ever own it.

## 343.2 POLICY

The SBPD will respect the public's right to privacy by using only photographic and/or video sources from the public domain in furtherance of the Department's use of facial recognition technology for legitimate law enforcement purposes or other official business, and that any result from this technology shall be considered advisory in nature as an investigative lead only and does not establish probable cause without further investigation.

Facial recognition technology shall only be used when there is reasonable suspicion that such use will provide information relevant to an active or ongoing Part 1 Violent Crime investigation.

Facial recognition technology utilizes algorithms to identify possible match candidates to an image. The Department only uses facial recognition technology which has been evaluated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for matching efficiency and accuracy.

## 343.3 AUTHORIZED USES

Authorized uses of facial recognition technology include but are not limited to: