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## TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

COMMENT ON OUR PROFESSION

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### Unconditional Love

The other day, I was talking to a lifelong friend and he told me of a personal experience that, although I didn't personally experience, I learned from, and I wanted to pass this learning on to you.

He stated that he received a call about a long-distance friend who he found out had cancer and whom he wanted to go and visit. His son was available, knew his dad had a close, personal relationship with this friend many states away, and this son wanted to go along and lend support to his dad.

The automobile trip was across several states, and the father and son spent many hours in conversation that renewed their close relationship. This father's son just became a father to a young girl, and now the new father asked the new grandfather about how to raise this new joy and responsibility.

As they travelled, the grandfather asked this question of his son: "Have you ever put your daughter on your chest and had your daughter fall asleep?" The son answered yes, and that it had happened that past weekend. As his young daughter was asleep on his chest, he said he thought of his little girl in pre-school, church, and grade school, and he said he had dreamt of her high school graduation. He said these things pleased him, but that he was frightened by his dream of him walking her down the aisle. Right then, he was jealous about giving away his precious little girl.

The grandfather asked him if she was a perfect child in his vision, and he answered "Yes." The father asked his son, what if she hadn't been perfect, what if she had been defiant, what if she had been a liar, what if she had been a law-breaker, what if she had been disobedient? What would you think then?

First his son said she wouldn't do those things, and the grandfather persisted and said, "Just imagine – what if she had? What would you do?" He said, "I love her and I always will love her - I will love her no matter what, and I would try everything in my power to help her!" His son ended his statement with, "She is my child, and God please help me keep her safe."

As my friend related that story to me, I came to realize the concept of unconditional love that a parent has for their children. I hope my children realize some day that I had this unconditional love for them.

Many of us, when we enforce the law, get irritated when a parent demonstrates

unconditional love. I didn't say "tough love" – I said unconditional love. Well, if you as a peace officer witness this unconditional love, realize it is quite normal, even among cops. Because even cops love their children unconditionally. It is quite normal, and should be expected in all parents.

Take some time today and tell those close to you how much you care.