
	LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT Ardmore, Pennsylvania	
	Policy 3.1.2	
Subject:		Distribution:
Order of Command and Obedience to Orders		All Personnel
Date of Issue:	Expiration Date:	Rescinds:
06-01-2014	Until Amended or Rescinded	General Order: 04-19
References:		
CALEA 12.1.2, 12.1.3; PLEAC: 1.4.1, 1.4.2		
By Authority of:		
		Superintendent of Police

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to designate an Order of Command in the event of the temporary absence or incapacity of the Superintendent of Police and the procedure to be followed by an employee who receives a conflicting or unlawful order. The designated Order of Command shall also be used when the Superintendent is unavailable for short periods of time while out of the Township on business.

AUTHORITY

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

"Superintendent of Police - Article 1.024 - Assign an Acting Superintendent for periods of any short-term absence and recommend to the Township Manager a Division Commander to serve as Acting Superintendent during any long-term absence."

ORDER OF COMMAND

- A.** The designated Order of Command in the police department when the Superintendent of Police, is unavailable, unless adjusted by special order, shall be as follows: **(CALEA 12.1.2 a) (PLEAC 1.4.1 a)**
1. Operations Division Commander
 2. Staff Services Division Commander
 3. On-Duty Watch Commander
 4. Staff & Inspections Unit Commander

OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS AND CONFLICTING ORDERS

A. Supervisory accountability.

1. Supervisors will be held accountable for the performance of the employees under their immediate supervision. Although supervisors may free themselves of the actual performance of a given task, a supervising officer cannot excuse himself/herself from responsibility for the accomplishment of the task.

B. Obedience to orders.

1. Employees are required to obey any lawful order of a supervisor, including any order relayed from a supervisor by an employee of the same or lesser rank.
(CALEA 12.1.3) (PLEAC 1.4.2)

C. Conflicting orders. (CALEA 12.1.3) (PLEAC 1.4.2)

1. Any employee who receives an order that conflicts with any previous order or instruction will advise the supervisor or person who issued the second order.
2. Responsibility for countermanding the original order rests with the supervisor who issued the second order.
3. In the event neither issuing supervisor can be readily advised, the employee will carry out the most recent order and advise a supervisor of the conflict as soon as possible.