
	LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT Ardmore, Pennsylvania	
	Policy 3.3.10	
Subject:		Distribution:
Limits of Authority / Identification Cards		All Sworn Personnel
Date of Issue:	Expiration Date:	Rescinds:
06-01-2014	Until Amended or Rescinded	General Order: 06-22 Directive: 05-97
References:		
CALEA: 1.2.1, 22.2.7, 33.4.1; PLEAC: 1.2.1, 1.10.3		
By Authority of:		
		Superintendent of Police

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the statutory authorization for the Police Department as prescribed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and any other applicable statutes or ordinances that provide the legal authority for law enforcement officers to perform their duties under the law. (**PLEAC 1.2.1a**) (**CALEA 1.2.1**)

POLICY

It shall be the policy of this department to ensure compliance with all applicable statutes and ordinances which grant specific law enforcement authorization to sworn law enforcement officers.

PROCEDURE

A. Township of Lower Merion

1. The Township of Lower Merion was incorporated as a Township of the First Class in 1900.
2. The Township of Lower Merion operates under the authority of an Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being the Act of June 24, 1931, P.L. 1206, as amended and reenacted May 27, 1949 P.L. 1955. As amended and supplemented this Act is known as the "First Class Township Code."

B. Township Of Lower Merion Police Department

1. The Township of Lower Merion Police Department is a legally constituted police department of a government entity, having been organized in 1900 by the Township Of Lower Merion under provisions of the First Class Township Code.
2. Powers of Police are authorized by the LMT Code-Chapter 5, Article III, § 5-10, A & B.
3. As police officers, Township of Lower Merion Police Department Police Officers are certified as “Municipal Police Officers” under L. 1974, Act 120, eff. 6/18/74, establishing the “Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (M.P.O.E.T.C.).”
 - a. Under the Act, a “Police Officer” is any full or part-time employee of a city, borough, town, township, or county police department assigned to criminal and/or traffic law enforcement duties.
 - b. Police Officers who are not certified by the M.P.O.E.T.C are not eligible to make arrests or otherwise enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or their respective municipalities.

C. Legal Authority To Carry and Use Weapons (PLEAC 1.2.1b)

1. The ability to carry firearms is governed by the Uniform Firearms Act of Pennsylvania. The exception to license requirements falls under Section 6106b, which exempts police officers from licensing requirements.
2. The use of deadly force is governed by 18 Pa. C.S.A., § 508a, which grants a police officer the justification to use any force which he believes is necessary to effect the arrest and of any force which he believes to be necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making the arrest.

D. Animal Warden

1. The Animal Warden’s authority is through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, P.L.784, and No.225. The Lower Merion Township Code also authorizes the Animal Warden under Chapter 5, Article III, § 5-8 A (8).

MPOETC & DEPARTMENTAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS

- A. It shall be the policy of this Department that all sworn members obtain ACT 120 (M.P.O.E.T.C.) certification prior to assuming their law enforcement duties and the M.P.O.E.T.C. card will be carried at all times when an officer is on duty and shall be displayed upon request as proof of certification or identification. Certification Cards

are valid for a period of two years and will expire on March 31st of odd numbered years. **(CALEA 33.4.1) (PLEAC 1.10.3)**

- B.** All Police Department Employees shall also be issued a Departmental photo identification card. This card shall be accessible to them, at all times while on duty, and shall be presented upon request. **(CALEA 22.2.7a,b)**
- C.** Loss of, or damage to the Departmental Photo Identification or M.P.O.E.T.C. Card shall be reported immediately to a supervisor followed by a written report containing the details of the loss or damage.
- D.** The Identification and M.P.O.E.T.C. Certification Cards are the property of the Department and M.P.O.E.T.C., and as such must be surrendered when:
 - 1.** The officer is suspended from duty for the duration of the suspension lasting three (3) or more days. The Card shall be returned to the officer by the department at the end of the suspension.
 - 2.** The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission has revoked the officer's certification.
 - 3.** An officer's employment with the department ends.
- E.** To maintain M.P.O.E.T.C. certification, Officers must attend required classes. If an officer fails to attend mandated M.P.O.E.T.C. training, he/she will have to attend a make-up program on their own time and at their own expense.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all supervisory personnel to ensure that all personnel under their immediate supervision comply with this policy.

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