

1.4.2 Obeying Any Lawful Order by a Superior

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Johnstown Police Department to implement and maintain a written directives system, which is thorough, consistent, reality based and establishes reasonable standards and guideline for the appropriate performance of officer's duties and responsibilities. It is the policy of the Johnstown Police Department to follow the guidelines of this general order.

II. PURPOSE

This general order is established to set policy guidelines for direction, chain of command, obedience or orders and agency communication and cooperation. In order to provide officers with a clear understanding of the constraints and expectations relating to performance of their duties, a written directive system is required. This order establishes such a written directive system by defining and differentiating between types of directives, by developing formant definitions for all written directives, by establishing authority to issue various directive types, by establishing procedures for indexing, purging, updating, revising and disseminating directives.

A. Supervisory Accountability

1. Supervisors will be held accountable for the performance of the officers 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. Officers are required to obey any lawful order of a supervisor, including any order relayed from a supervisor by an officer of the same or lesser rank.

C. Conflicting Orders

1. Any officer who receives an order that conflicts with any previous order or instruction will advise the supervisor or officer who issued the second order.

1.4.2 continued

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 officer shall advise a supervisor in the next level of the chain of command. If that supervisor cannot be readily advised, the officer will carry out the most recent order and advise a supervisor of the conflict as soon as possible.

Effective Date:

Date: June 13, 2006

By Order Of:

Craig Foust
Chief Of Police