

Abington Township Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter:	Law Enforcement Role and Authority	General Order:	1.3.1 a
Section:	Use of Force	Original Date:	061620
Title:	Duty to Intervene	Re-Issue Date:	
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Signature:	<i>Patrick Molloy</i>	Expiration Date:	Indefinite
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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is provide members with guidelines on when to intervene to stop the use of excessive force and the procedures on how to report such force if witnessed being used by a member of this department or another police department.

II. POLICY

It is a legal and moral obligation for members of the Abington Police Department to have a duty to intervene if they observe excessive force. This duty is embodied in the Abington Police Department's values and mission statement, in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and in Pennsylvania Crimes Code.

III. DEFINITION

Intervene: To come between, whether verbally or physically, so as to prevent or alter a result or course of events.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstances should intervene when they have the opportunity to do so, to prevent the use of excessive force.

1. If aid is required by any individual, the member will request EMS immediately and render aid as to the best of his/her ability.

B. Officers must notify any excessive or unreasonable force observed by members of this department or any other police department to a supervisor as soon as possible.

1. Supervisor Responsibility:

Supervisor will document the incident and if there are serious bodily injuries, follow steps outlined in General Order 1.3.8 Departmental Response In Use of Force Incidents otherwise the Supervisor will follow the steps outlined in General Order 52.1.1 Complaint Investigation.