

Abington Township Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter:	Direction	General Order:	12.1.2
Section;	Direction	Original Date:	100107
Title:	Command Protocol	Re-Issue Date:	020818
Issued By:	Patrick Molloy, Chief of Police	Reevaluation Date:	122021
Signature:	<i>Patrick Molloy</i>	Expiration Date:	Indefinite
Replaces:	All Previous General Orders Relative to Subject		
Distribution:	All Members	Total Pages:	3
CALEA Standard References:	12.1.2		
Pennsylvania Accreditation References:	1.4.1		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to designate the order or precedence for command authority within the Police Department during the absence of the Chief of Police.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Abington Township Police Department that the Chief of Police shall appoint an individual to act in his capacity during his absence. An individual appointed to act as contact person shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Chief of Police and carry out daily activities of the department. Under ordinary circumstances, the Deputy Chief of Police will be the second in command.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Chain of Command

1. Unless otherwise directed, the Deputy Chief of Police shall have the authority and perform the duties of the Chief of Police in the absence of the Chief of Police.
2. If the Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief of Police are absent, the senior remaining Division Commander, if any, shall have the authority and perform the duties of the Chief of Police.

3. If the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, and all Division Commanders are absent, the senior ranking Supervisor shall have the authority and perform the duties of the Chief of Police.
 4. If the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, Division Commanders, and senior ranking Supervisor are absent, the senior ranking officer shall be in charge.
- B. Incidents of Responsibility Not Covered by Departmental Orders
1. During incidents of responsibility not covered by Departmental Orders or written directives where equal rank or grade are concerned due to the absence of the Chief of Police, seniority of service in grade will determine the Command Officer in charge.
 2. In the absence of the Chief of Police, Division Commanders, or Supervisors, the senior Police Officer will be in charge until relieved by a Command Officer.
- C. Situations Involving Personnel of Different Functions Engaged in a Single Operation;
1. In joint patrol/detective investigations, the officer initially responding to the call will be in charge until being relieved by a detective or supervisor dispatched to the scene. Command is relinquished when the detective or supervisor verbally announces he/she is in control of the scene.
 2. A detective assigned to the scene will be in charge until a supervisor arrives and assumes command.
 3. When the Detective Division Supervisor and a Patrol Supervisor are both on the scene of a joint investigation, command of the crime scene is relinquished when the Detective Division Supervisor announces he/she is taking control of the scene.
 4. In specific operational activities or special event functions, command will be assigned by the Chief of Police and will follow the ICS structure.
- D. Normal Day-to-day Operations
1. The precedence of rank and command in descending order during normal day-to-day operations is as follows: Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, Lieutenant, Sergeant and Police Officer. In normal day-to-day operations, when two or more officers of the same rank are on duty and supervising the same area of responsibility, the chain of command will be determined by the time in grade.

2. Patrol Supervisors are vested with the responsibility to oversee the 24-hour operation of the Department. In addition to Police Officers under his/her direction, Patrol Supervisors also oversee other areas and/or members not in their direct chain of command. These areas/personnel may include the Records Unit, Operations Unit, Animal Control, Detective Division, and Administrative Division. In circumstances where Division Commanders are needed for consultation, they may be reached via telephone or Cell phone.