



<b>WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania	
<b>General Order</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Order</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ORDER NUMBER</b>  <b>1.8.4</b>

<b>Subject:</b> Use of Force- Duty to Intervene		
Relevant Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission Standards: 1.8.4		
<b>Date of Issue</b> October 2, 2020	<b>Effective Date</b> October 2, 2020	<b>Expiration Date</b> Until Amended or Rescinded
<b>Amends</b> G.O. 1.3.1A of July 21, 2020	<b>Rescinds</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b> Chief Christopher P. Ward		
<b>Distribution</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General Order Manuals</li> <li>2. Master Records File</li> <li>3. Training Verification for all Personnel</li> </ol>		

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this general order is to 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 Whitemarsh Township Police Department to intervene if they observe excessive force being utilized. This duty is embodied in the Whitemarsh Township Police Department's mission statement, in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and the Pennsylvania Crimes Code.

## III. Definitions

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

#### **IV. PROCEDURES:**

- A. Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly excessive or 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 an individual, the member will request EMS immediately and render aid to the best of his/her ability as soon as it is safe to do so.
  
- B. Officers must notify a supervisor of any use of excessive or unreasonable force they observed by members of this department or any other police department 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 1.3.1 Use of Force, Section XIII Reports and Investigations, otherwise the Supervisor will follow the steps outlined in General Order 2.3.1 Complaint Review Policy-Internal Affairs.
  
- C. Each Sworn member will receive refresher training on Duty to Intervene annually in association to Use of Force Training.
  - 1. The training will be documented.