



Indiana University Police Department

## Obeying Lawful Orders

<b>Issue Date:</b>	7/16/2020	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7/16/2020
<b>Review Date:</b>	7/16/2021	<b>Number of Pages:</b>	2
<b>Rescinds:</b>	None		
<b>IACLEA Standards:</b>	1.1.6		

### Purpose

This order requires IUPD officer to obey any lawful order of a superior or higher rank.

### 1.1.6 Obeying Lawful Orders

The Indiana University Police Department (IUPD) personnel are expected to obey any lawful order of a superior, even when conveyed by another employee, regardless of rank and established procedures to be followed when a conflicting order or directive is received.

- The following describes the need to obey lawful orders:
  - Department employees are required to obey any lawful order of a superior, including any order relayed from a superior by an employee of the same or lesser rank.
- Any employee who willfully disobeys or disregards a direct order, verbal or written, of a superior will be considered insubordinate. Failure to comply with a lawful order or directive is a serious breach of organizational discipline. Such violations will subject the employee to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.
  - No employee will be required to obey any order that is unlawful or requires that an unlawful act be committed.
    - If any employee receives a conflicting order or directive, the employee will respectfully call the conflict to the attention of the supervisor issuing the order.
    - If the conflict is not resolved, the receiving employee will notify an employee of higher rank than the employee that issued the order, as soon as practical.
  - If an order conflicts with a prior order, the employee will notify the supervisor giving the conflicting order and follow the second order. The supervisor will resolve the conflict as soon as practical and follow-up in writing within 72 hours. The supervisor giving the second order will be responsible for consequences arising from the conflict.
  - Many actions which are required in the performance of duties of law enforcement personnel have severe consequences, including the loss of life, if they are not carried forward in a timely manner. If an order is unlawful or will cause harm to the officer or another, the order will not be followed.
- If an order is perceived as unlawful, it is the receiving employee's responsibility to justify why the order was challenged.



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General Order G1.1.6

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- If the order is confirmed as unlawful, the employee will suffer no adverse action for not following the unlawful order. An investigation will determine why the unlawful order was given. Results may include changes in training or discipline of the employee issuing the order.

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Benjamin D. Hunter (7/16/2020)  
Superintendent of Public Safety