

# **COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**Subject: OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS**

**Date of Issue: 01-01-1999**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**Policy No. A185**

**Review Date: 06-01-2007**

**Distribution: Departmental**

**Revision Date:**

## **I. Purpose**

To establish guidelines for the issuance of and obedience to instructions, orders or directions given by any departmental supervisor to employees.

## **II. Statement of Policy**

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department that all orders issued from a supervisor to a subordinate are followed to the best of the subordinate's ability. This includes an order relayed from a supervisor by an employee of the same or lesser rank. Failure of a subordinate to follow instructions given by a supervisor may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

## **III. Restrictions Concerning Orders**

- A. Orders from a superior to a subordinate shall be in clear, understandable language, civil in tone, and issued in accordance with departmental regulations and pursuit of departmental business.
- B. No command or supervisory officer shall knowingly issue any order, which is in violation of any law or ordinance or departmental policy.
- C. Obedience to an unlawful order is never a defense for an unlawful action; therefore, no member or employee is required to obey any order, which is contrary to federal or state law or local ordinances. Responsibility for refusal to obey rests with the member. He or she shall be strictly required to justify his or her actions.

- D. Upon receipt of an order conflicting with any previous order or instruction, the member affected will advise the person issuing the second order of the fact. Responsibility for countermanding the original instruction then rests with the individual issuing the second order. If so directed, the latter command shall be obeyed first. Orders will be countermanded or conflicting orders will be issued only when reasonably necessary for the good of the department.

***This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.***

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

*Stacey L. Cotton*

Stacey L. Cotton  
Chief of Police