

1-5-9 Duty to Intervene

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this general order is to explain the legal and moral obligation members have regarding their duty to intervene. The duty is embodied in the law enforcement code of ethics, the law, and the Bowling Green Police Division's Code of Conduct. Agency members shall have a clear understanding of the agency's expectations pertaining to conduct and activities while on and off-duty.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. "Other public safety/criminal justice associates might include, but is not limited to, members of task forces with which the agency works, members from other agencies with shared or concurrent jurisdictions, agency volunteers, or representatives from support organizations within the broader criminal justice system" (CALEA Standard 1.2.10, 2020).

PROCEDURES:

- I. Duty to Intervene
 - a. Members of the Bowling Green Police Division have an affirmative duty to intervene if they witness a use of force that is clearly unreasonable. Any officer present and observing another officer or public safety associate using force that is clearly beyond which is reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to safely do so, intervene to prevent the use of unreasonable force.
 - b. Members of the Bowling Green Police Division must recognize and act upon the duty to intervene to prevent or stop any officer or public safety associate from conducting any act that is unethical, violates the law, or an agency policy (e.g., excessive force, theft, fraud, inappropriate language, sexual misconduct, harassment, falsifying documents, inappropriate behavior, etc.)
- II. Required Action
 - a. Members of the Bowling Green Police Division should take a preventative approach toward misconduct. When an employee observes behavior that suggests another employee is about to conduct illegal, unethical, or inappropriate behavior, the employee should intervene verbally or physically, depending on the circumstances.

- b. After intervening, the employee must notify the on-duty supervisor as soon as practical.

III. Supervisor Responsibilities

- a. Once learning of an incident involving an employee intervening with another employee, the supervisor will investigate the matter in accordance with *Policy 1-5-5 Supervisor Authority*. The supervisor will also notify the chief of police in accordance with *Policy 1-5-10 Notification of Chief of Police*.

REVIEW PROCESS:

- I. This directive shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the chief of police or his/her designee.

CANCELLATION:

- I. This general order shall remain in force until revoked or revised by competent authority.

(CALEA 1.2.10) (Rev. 08/28/2020)