



MISSOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

Subject: AUTHORITY TO COMMAND		
Effective Date: 4/20/2014	Original Date:	Next Review: 4/20/2017
Chapter 1	Policy # 1.40	Distribution:
References: <i>Mission and Value Statement, Organization Vision, Organizational Chart, Job Descriptions, General Duties of Members</i>		

I. Purpose

To operate most effectively as a professional law enforcement agency the Missoula Police Department shall provide its members with clear organizational structure and clear authority of command.

II. Policy

In order to maintain a proper chain of command, a member will, as a general rule, be required to take direct orders from, and be responsible to, one supervisor.

Supervisors shall exercise direct command over subordinate officers outside their usual command in all situations where the police purpose or the reputation of the Department is jeopardized or if no other provision is made for personnel temporarily unsupervised.

If a supervisor requires a subordinate, not of his command, to leave a regular assignment, the supervisor so directing will inform the subordinate's supervisor as soon as possible.

Adherence to the chain of command shall not be bypassed except in an emergency.

When officers of equal rank are present and in the performance of the same operation, the officer listed first on the Missoula Police Department's personnel roster shall be in command unless otherwise directed.

An officer relieving or temporarily filling the position of a superior in an acting capacity shall be vested with all the authority and responsibilities of the superior. The acting officer shall not interfere with, countermand or modify the orders previously issued by the superior except in extreme situations.

Members acting in the capacity of a higher rank shall be accorded the same obedience and respect, as the permanent ranking officer.

Issuance of orders to a subordinate does not relieve a ranking officer from the responsibility to see that the orders are obeyed.

When a question arises regarding who shall be in command, such designation shall be determined by:

- Rank
- Current listing on the Missoula Police Department's personnel roster.
- By one officer being designated by a competent authority as in command.