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LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

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SOP# A-210

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SUBJECT: OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS

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INDEX AS: ORDERS: CONFLICTING ORDERS: LAWFUL ORDERS

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EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 27, 2005 REVISED DATE:  
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I. PURPOSE:

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

II. SCOPE:

This policy shall apply to all Laurens County Law Enforcement Center personnel who are given the authority to issue orders and to those who are obligated to follow orders.

III. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Laurens County Law Enforcement Center that all orders issued from a supervisory officer to a subordinate be followed to the best of the subordinate's ability. Failure of a subordinate to follow instructions given by a supervisory officer may result in dismissal or other disciplinary action.

IV. RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING ORDERS:

A. Orders from a superior to a subordinate shall be in clear, understandable language, civil in tone, and issued in 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.

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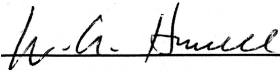
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- C. Obedience to an unlawful order is never a defense for an unlawful action: Therefore, no Deputy or Employee is required to obey an order which is contrary to federal or state law or local ordinances. Responsibility for refusal to obey rests with the Deputy or employee. Every Deputy or Employee shall be strictly required to justify his/her action.
- D. Upon receipt of an order conflicting with any previous order or instruction, the Deputy or employee affected will advise the person issuing the second order of this fact. Responsibility for countermanding the original instruction 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 when reasonably necessary for the good of the Department.

  
W. A. HARRELL  
SHERIFF

4/27/2005

DATE