



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Jody P. Weis, *Superintendent of Police*

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OFFICER'S LEGAL HANDBOOK

Working to provide the most up-to-date tactical, safety and legal information to Department members has been one of my top priorities as Superintendent. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the "Officer's Legal Handbook."

This handbook will be provided to all Department members. It is designed to be used as a pocket legal guide, with specific information pertaining to situations that police officers encounter everyday. It is supposed to educate and assist you, and help make certain parts of your job easier.

As we know, officers are often required to make significant legal decisions within moments of responding to a situation. On a daily basis, there are numerous instances when officers are required to be aware of the full extent of their legal authority for safety and tactical response decisions. For these reasons, and others, it is vital that officers be aware of their powers and authority and have operational knowledge of changing laws which affect their actions. This handbook was developed to provide officers with yet another reference tool, in addition to training, policy and other Departmental resources, to assist in providing a legal guide to legal questions that can sometimes remain unclear.

The Officer's Legal Handbook compiles, in one convenient format, the laws commonly referenced by officers while engaged in protecting the residents of Chicago, including Terry Stops, Terry Frisks, Plain Touch and Plain Feel, Stops versus Arrests, Traffic Stops, Traffic Stops with Passengers, Vehicle Searches, Search/Arrest Warrants, Rights of the Accused, Interrogations, Consent to Search, Hot Pursuits, Exigent Circumstances, Use of Force, and Search Incident to Arrest.

Department members are reminded that the law, particularly as it relates to arrest, and issues of search and seizure, is always evolving. Officers should be aware that some material in the handbook may be superseded by current cases or statutory laws. Policy and training also have a role in legal-based decision making. For any concerns over actions and the legal validity of decisions, the Office of Legal Affairs should be contacted if further assistance is required.

Once you receive your Handbook, spend some time reading through it; I think you will find it to be an invaluable and handy tool.

Thanks for your attention and, as always, stay safe.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Weis".

Jody P. Weis
Superintendent of Police