



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

085 – CITIZEN CONTACTS, FIELD INTERVIEWS, SEARCH AND SEIZURE

GENERAL ORDER: 2025-36
ISSUED: August 4, 2025

EFFECTIVE: August 4, 2025

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow
DATE: July 2, 2025

ACTION: Amends General Order 2025-13 (February 24, 2025)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 1.7.3, 1.7.4, 1.7.7, 6.1.8, 6.2.3, 6.2.5, 10.1.1

ROLL CALL VERSION

**Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.**

085.00 PURPOSE / POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide general guidance for enforcement actions, particularly citizen contacts (for traffic stops ~~and~~ field interviews, ~~and no-action encounters~~), arrests, searches and seizures of persons or property, which shall be based on the standards of reasonable suspicion or probable cause as required by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, statutory authority and applicable case law, or MPD policies and procedures.

In all enforcement decisions, officers shall be able to articulate specific facts, circumstances, and conclusions which support individualized, objective, and articulable reasonable suspicion for stops and frisks of individuals, and/or objective individualized probable cause for arrests, searches, and seizures of individuals.

Consistent with state and federal law, as well as MPD policies and procedures including the guiding principles of the Code of Conduct of the Milwaukee Police Department, police members shall not stop, frisk, detain, arrest, search, or attempt to search anyone based solely upon the person's race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, disability, ethnicity, age, religion or social economic status.

085.05 DEFINITIONS

A. ARTICULABLE

Members shall be able to thoroughly explain and document the details of a field interview (Terry stop), ~~no action encounter~~, or traffic stop to establish reasonable suspicion that is in compliance with the Constitution, state law, department policy and ethical standards.

F. INDIVIDUALIZED

Each contact with a subject is unique and shall be treated as such. Any use of generalizations and broad statements are insufficient. Each field interview (Terry

stop), no action encounter, or traffic stop, each frisk and/or search needs to be articulated separately from one another.

~~G. NO-ACTION ENCOUNTER~~

~~Any situation in which an MPD member briefly questions a person about that person, or that persons' own actions or behavior, but does not obtain the person's name. No action encounters do not involve frisks or searches, and do not result in a warning, citation, summons, or arrest.~~

~~GH. OBJECTIVE~~

~~HI. PAT-DOWN SEARCH or FRISK~~

~~IJ. "PLAIN FEEL" DOCTRINE~~

~~JK. PROBABLE CAUSE~~

~~KL. REASONABLE SUSPICION~~

~~LM. SEARCH~~

~~MN. SEIZURE~~

~~NO. STRIP SEARCH~~

085.20 FIELD INTERVIEWS (FI's) (TERRY STOPS) (WILEAG 10.1.1)

C. REPORTING OF FIELD INTERVIEWS (FI'S) (TERRY STOPS)

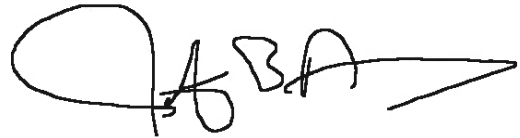
1. After conducting a Terry stop, the police member will record the facts of the Terry stop in the Records Management System (RMS). Terry stops recorded in the RMS may be first recorded on the Terry Stop Form (form PF-4). All records of Terry stops shall indicate whether a warning, citation, or arrest resulted from the encounter, and if so, the identified offense. All Terry stops shall be recorded and the outcome noted (e.g., warning, citation, arrest, and or no outcome).

If a member conducts a Terry stop, and the MPD member briefly questions a person about that person, or that persons' own actions or behavior, but does not obtain the person's name, they shall document on the Terry Stop Form the CAD number of the encounter under last name and "Unknown 1" for the first name. If more than one person is stopped, then repeat and list the second person's first name as "Unknown 2."

~~D. REPORTING OF NO-ACTION ENCOUNTERS~~

- ~~1. No-action encounters differ from field interviews (Terry stops) in that the MPD member questions an individual about the individual's own actions or behavior, but does not request or obtain that individual's name.~~

- ~~2. After conducting a no-action encounter the police member shall:
 - ~~a. Record the facts of the no-action encounter in the RMS. That documentation shall include the subject's perceived age, gender, race, ethnicity, and the encounter location, date, and start time, and a narrative explaining the legal basis for the encounter.~~
 - ~~b. Ensure the call for service is given a C-21 disposition code.~~~~
- ~~3. All no-action encounter reports shall be completed by a police member prior to the end of their tour of duty.~~
- ~~4. No-action encounter reports are to be reviewed by a supervisor for completeness and accuracy. No-action encounter reports found to be incomplete or inaccurate are to be rejected and returned to the submitting police member who will make the necessary corrections and re-submit the report within 24 hours.~~
- ~~5. All no-action encounter reports in the RMS FI module shall be reviewed by a supervisor for completeness and accuracy and approved within fourteen (14) days of the initial no-action encounter.~~
- ~~6. Documentation of no-action encounters is critical. Failure to properly document no-action encounters may result in counseling, training, and/or discipline.~~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B. Norman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk