

General Order

Houston Police Department



ISSUE DATE:

March 16, 2020

NO.

200-01

REFERENCE: Supersedes all prior conflicting Circulars and Directives, and General Order 200-01, dated February 7, 2012

SUBJECT: REQUESTING LEGAL OPINIONS

POLICY

Requests for legal opinions from the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the City of Houston Legal Department, or the County Attorney's Office may be made by only the Chief of Police, the Deputy Director of Legal Services, or their designees.

This General Order applies to all employees.

1 REQUESTING LEGAL OPINIONS FROM ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF HPD

Employees needing legal opinions from entities outside the department shall submit a written request via their chain of command to the Chief of Police. The request shall contain the following information:

- a. Analysis of the problem
- b. Background information
- c. Possible solution(s)
- d. Expected result
- e. Request for official legal opinion

The Office of Legal Services shall evaluate the request and advise the Chief of Police. Upon review, the Chief of Police, the Deputy Director of the Office of Legal Services, or their designees may request a legal opinion from the appropriate official.

The above policy does not apply to the everyday practice of an officer contacting the appropriate office in furtherance of filing charges on a suspect.

2 REQUESTING LEGAL OPINIONS FROM LEGAL SERVICES

Requests for legal opinions from the Office of Legal Services shall be made in writing by the affected division commander through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.


Art Acevedo
Chief of Police