



National Association of Field Training Officers Indiana Chapter

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FTO Override

Overriding the new officer's decision can be stressful, not only for the new officer, but also the FTO. Here a few tips to help with the FTO override.

An FTO override is simply anytime an FTO steps in and takes control of a call, scene, or event. The override is used to correct the mistakes or errors of the new officer. The decision when to override should be based on the situation. Ask yourself this simple question when deciding to override. If the new officer is allowed to make a mistake and work the problem out for themselves will the process have a positive or negative effect?

If the answer to your question is positive then let the recruit continue his action. If the result will be negative then conduct an override. Remember that the student should be allowed to experience as much as possible, within limits. Unfortunately many people need to make their own mistakes prior to learning.

If the new officer's actions will result in one of the following situations then the FTO must override immediately.

1. The possibility of serious injury or death to officers or citizens.
2. Embarrassment to the department.
3. Escape of a prisoner.
4. A civil rights violation.
5. An infraction of the law.
6. A breach of departmental rules and regulations
7. An emergency situation which may be beyond the knowledge, experience, and control of the new officer

Finally after the FTO has conducted his override make sure to get the student back into the situation as soon as possible so learning can continue. Make sure to use the incident as a training issue and do not punish the recruit for making a mistake.

-Steven Kellams