

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

No. 720

Supersedes: NA

Effective: September 19, 2019

Page: NA Section: NA

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Date: October 8, 1998

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**USE OF NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT**

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- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide Upper Merion Township police officers with guidelines on the use of night vision equipment.
- II. **POLICY:** It is the policy of the Upper Merion Township Police Department that night vision equipment shall be used only to pursue a legitimate law enforcement purpose. The department recognizes and respects the privacy of all individuals. Use of night vision equipment is not intended to infringe upon an individual's privacy. Any inadvertent observation or contact with an individual, which serves no legitimate law enforcement purpose, will be discontinued immediately.
- III. **PROCEDURES:**
1. Officers must be familiar with the proper use and care of night vision equipment before it may be assigned to them.
  2. The equipment will be maintained in a locked cabinet when it is not in use. The shift supervisor will assign night vision units during roll call and record the assignment on the Sergeant's Daily Report. The officer must return the unit to the shift supervisor at the end of the shift.
  3. Night vision units may not be used to peer into building windows, vehicles, or other areas that may potentially violate an individual's privacy unless there is a specific law enforcement purpose for such action.
  4. An officer using the night vision equipment for a legitimate purpose who inadvertently compromises an individual's privacy must immediately redirect the unit unless it would jeopardize the safety of the officer or the public.

5. Any officer encountering a situation in which he/she has questions concerning the legitimate use of the night vision equipment should confer with a supervisor prior to its use.
6. The device may be loaned to another police department in certain situations and with the approval of a command officer or the shift supervisor. The situation should involve the potential for serious injury or the apprehension of a felon. Requests for use in routine surveillance or routine patrol cannot be accommodated.

APPROVED: Thomas Nolan  
Chief Thomas Nolan

DATED: 09/20/2019

APPROVED: Jeremy Johnson  
Captain Jeremy Johnson

DATED: 09/20/2019

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All police officers  
All police dispatchers  
All civilian employees  
Township Manager  
File