

Policy on a University Employee's Response to Law Enforcement Contact Concerning University Legal Matters

This policy reiterates Valparaiso University's long standing practice of reacting to federal, state, or local law enforcement contact with University employees concerning University legal matters. Should any employee be contacted by law enforcement concerning a University legal matter, with or without a warrant or subpoena, the employee shall direct the law enforcement to the Valparaiso University Police Department (VUPD). The VUPD will immediately contact the Office of General Counsel. The employee shall not be adversarial with law enforcement as doing so makes themselves personally vulnerable to a claim of obstruction of justice or other legal claim. Only the Office of General Counsel has authority to be served with a law enforcement warrant of subpoena.

If law enforcement immediately proceeds with its purpose for being on campus, notwithstanding the employee directing them to the VUPD, the employee shall not attempt to stop the procession, must remain amicable, and immediately contact the VUPD. The VUPD will immediately contact the Office of General Counsel. Only the University General Counsel has authority to determine the validity and scope of a warrant or subpoena or the extent to which law enforcement action violates the law. An employee who attempts to make these assessments themselves, or otherwise acts adversarial to law enforcement, makes themselves personally vulnerable to a claim of obstruction of justice or other legal claim.