



Interior Dept. Denies Chambers Is Under a 'Gag Order'

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Washington (AP) - Gag order? What gag order? Although the phrase has for months been used in connection with embattled U.S. Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers, the Interior Department insists it's wrong.

In a letter faxed to The Associated Press, department spokesman John Wright says, "There is not now, nor has there ever been" a gag order placed on Chambers.

So can Chambers talk to reporters or not? According to Wright, the Interior Department has a policy requiring all decision makers and managers to refer media inquiries to their respective public affairs or communications office. And since Chambers is on paid administrative leave, she's required to obtain clearance for interviews from her immediate supervisor.

Chambers was suspended in December after complaining to reporters that the Park Police are underfunded and overworked.