



What is Authority?

Authority is about power. Authority cannot be exercised unless power is involved. A person who submits to authority is actually submitting to power. This power is held by a person or a group. It is the power behind an authority that backs it up.

	<p>Behind a sheriff's badge was always the law. The law gave him the right to capture criminals or kill those how resisted arrest. The law had hanging and prison for those who didn't follow the sheriff's directives.</p>
	<p>An Australian police officer is backed by the law to capture criminals and even kill those how resisted them. The law has punishment and prison for those who didn't follow the law. But, behind the law is the monarch. The queen's power is ultimate. She can suspend or save life if it is right to do so.</p>
	<p>A naval officer is backed by defence law and naval enforcement. The law has punishment and prison for those who didn't follow the law. Local enforcement allows for confinement in the brig, PK duty and demotion for those who didn't follow senior officer commands.</p>

The authority a person has must have been given to them, it is not their own. If a person acts with no higher authority, they act in their own power. This is how criminals, despots and bully's work. They wield power, but not authority. Power and authority have the same outcomes, because authority is about who else has the power.

A person with authority must be authorised by the power source to do what they do. 'Authorized' means they are commissioned or accredited with the power of the superior power. This is why sheriff's, police officers and defence force officers have badges. The badge represents the power behind them. A toy police badge has no authority behind it, so a person using it cannot wield power except over those they have duped. Coming to 'the crunch', however, no power can be exercised by those carrying a toy badge.

In the home, parents have the authority. This is given them by law. They are authorized to act in certain ways for the benevolence of their children. Outside of that, any authority a parent has over their children is based on power. This power is what the parent can exercise over the children, be it physical, psychological or emotional. The authority to command children has been taken away from parents today by the same legal system that authorized them in the past. In days gone by it was legal to carry out corporal punishment on aberrant children and this is what kept them in line. Today, parents have no authority to discipline their children so they have to use psychological methods – e.g. fear of losing a privilege or possession.

Managers of companies have authority from the owner or board to hire and fire employees. They are authorized to do this, but nothing greater, unless it's in their terms of employment. Teachers have limited authority to discipline students. They are authorized by the principal, who is authorized by the department



of education, which is backed by legislation (the law).

Authority cannot be given to others unless the giver has power or a higher authority.

A parent can authorize the oldest sibling to supervise the other children while they go shopping. The child wields the authority by stating, “Mum said”, if a younger child refuses to acknowledge their supervisory role. Like a teacher, the older child is acting *in loco parentis* – ‘in the place of a parent’. They carry the authority of the parent to supervise, and to discipline at a rudimentary level. Normal discipline in these cases is to report any problems to a parent who has the power to discipline.

A child cannot give another child authority to do something where they don't have any authority for it. They can, however, give a brother authority to ride their bike. This is because they were authorized by their parent when they said, “This is your bike”. Under the rules of the family, a child is usually given autonomy over their possessions, subject to the power of their parents. Their authority rests in the knowledge that if they take their sister’s bike without asking, they will answer to the power of their parents.

In summary:

- Authority is about wielding power
- To have authority means a power is behind the person
- A person with authority is authorized by a higher authority
- Authority cannot be bestowed on others unless the authorizer has authority to do so.

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