



# GENERAL ORDER

## USE OF FORCE POLICY

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORDER IS TO PROVIDE OFFICERS WITH GUIDELINES FOR THE REASONABLE USE OF FORCE. THIS ORDER RECOGNIZES THE USE OF FORCE IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY AND REQUIRES CONSTANT EVALUATION.

### I. GENERAL

THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES AND RESPECTS THE VALUE OF ALL HUMAN LIFE. OFFICERS ARE INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS ENCOUNTERS DAILY WITH A VARIETY OF PEOPLE, AND MAY BE CALLED UPON TO USE REASONABLE FORCE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES. OFFICERS MUST UNDERSTAND THE LIMITATIONS OF THEIR AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO OVERCOMING RESISTANCE FROM THOSE WITH WHOM THEY COME IN OFFICIAL CONTACT. VESTING OFFICERS WITH THE AUTHORITY TO USE REASONABLE FORCE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC WELFARE REQUIRES A CAREFUL BALANCING OF ALL HUMAN INTERESTS.

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE 835 (A) - ANY PEACE OFFICER WHO HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PERSON TO BE ARRESTED HAS COMMITTED A PUBLIC OFFENSE MAY USE REASONABLE FORCE TO EFFECT THE ARREST, TO PREVENT ESCAPE, OR TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE. A PEACE OFFICER WHO MAKES OR ATTEMPTS TO MAKE AN ARREST NEED NOT RETREAT OR DESIST FROM HIS/HER EFFORTS BY REASON OF RESISTANCE OR THREATENED RESISTANCE OF THE PERSON BEING ARRESTED; NOR SHALL SUCH OFFICER BE DEEMED AN AGGRESSOR OR LOSE HIS/HER RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE BY THE USE OF REASONABLE FORCE TO EFFECT THE ARREST OR TO PREVENT ESCAPE OR TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE.

### II. POLICY

- A. IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS DEPARTMENT THAT OFFICERS SHALL USE ONLY THAT FORCE WHICH IS REASONABLE, GIVEN THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES PERCEIVED BY THE OFFICER AT THE TIME OF THE EVENT, TO EFFECTIVELY BRING AN INCIDENT UNDER CONTROL. "OBJECTIVE REASONABLENESS" OF THE FORCE USED MUST BE JUDGED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A REASONABLE OFFICER ON THE SCENE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

1. OFFICERS MAY USE FORCE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES WHEN THEY REASONABLY BELIEVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS EXIST:
  - (A) IN SELF-DEFENSE OR IN DEFENSE OF ANOTHER PERSON;
  - (B) TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF A PUBLIC OFFENSE;
  - (C) TO EFFECT A LAWFUL ARREST, TO PREVENT ESCAPE, OR TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE;
  - (D) TO PROTECT A PERSON FROM INJURING HIM/HERSELF.
  - (E) TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE.
  
2. OFFICERS MAY USE DEADLY FORCE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES WHEN THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS EXIST:
  - (A) IN SELF-DEFENSE OR DEFENSE OF ANOTHER PERSON WHEN THE OFFICER HAS A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH OR GREAT BODILY INJURY;
  
  - (B) TO EFFECT AN ARREST, PREVENT AN ESCAPE, OR RECAPTURE AN ESCAPEE, WHEN THE OFFICER HAS A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT THE SUSPECT HAS COMMITTED OR ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT A VIOLENT CRIME INVOLVING THE THREAT OF DEATH OR GREAT BODILY INJURY, OR MAY CAUSE DEATH OR GREAT BODILY INJURY TO AN OFFICER OR ANOTHER PERSON, SHOULD THE SUSPECT ESCAPE.
  
  - (C) IN EACH SITUATION ABOVE, WHERE FEASIBLE, AN OFFICER SHOULD ISSUE A VERBAL WARNING PRIOR TO FIRING.
  
3. THE OBJECTIVE IN APPLYING REASONABLE FORCE IS TO CONTROL PERSONS AND INCIDENTS, THEREBY MINIMIZING INJURY TO ALL PERSONS INVOLVED. NOTHING IN THIS POLICY REQUIRES AN OFFICER TO ACTUALLY SUSTAIN PHYSICAL INJURY BEFORE APPLYING REASONABLE FORCE.

III. USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

- A. EXAMPLES FOR THE APPLICATION OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF FORCE ARE PROVIDED TO OFFICERS AND DO NOT IMPLY ANY ESCALATION SCALE. THESE EXAMPLES ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE, NOR ARE THEY INTENDED TO LIMIT AN OFFICER'S REASONABLE RESPONSE TO A PERCEIVED THREAT (SEE APPENDIX A.)

IV. REPORTING

- A. ANY USE OF FORCE WHICH RESULTS IN A VISIBLE OR REPORTED INJURY, OR INVOLVES THE USE OF FIREARMS, IMPACT WEAPONS, CHEMICAL WEAPONS, CAROTID CONTROL HOLDS, OR VEHICLES, SHALL BE DOCUMENTED. THE USE OF PARTICULAR WEAPONS, SUCH AS CHEMICAL WEAPONS, MAY ALSO REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF ADDITIONAL FORMS AS REQUIRED BY DEPARTMENT POLICY AND/OR STATE LAW. THIS INCLUDES ANY INCIDENT AS OUTLINED IN 835(A) P.C.
- B. THE COMPLETE USE OF FORCE REPORT, WHETHER AN INCIDENT, PURSUIT, CASUALTY, OR CRIME REPORT, SHALL INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:
1. REASON FOR RESPONSE OR ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY.
  2. WITNESSES'/SUSPECTS' BEHAVIOR UPON ARRIVAL OF OFFICERS.
  3. SUSPECTS' ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS PRIOR TO ARREST/USE OF FORCE.
  4. DIFFERENCES IN PHYSICAL ODDS; I.E., HEIGHT/WEIGHT, ALCOHOL/DRUG INTOXICATION, DEMONSTRATED FIGHTING SKILL.
  5. TYPE AND AMOUNT OF RESISTANCE OFFERED.
  6. TYPE OF FORCE USED TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE.
  7. MEDICAL TREATMENT REQUESTED AND BY WHOM PROVIDED.
  8. TIME OF SUPERVISORY NOTIFICATION AND TO WHOM.
  9. THIRD PARTY WITNESS STATEMENTS.
  10. EVIDENCE COLLECTED, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES.
- C. SUPERVISORY NOTIFICATION SHALL BE MADE AS SOON AS PRACTICAL FOLLOWING THE APPLICATION OF FORCE WHICH, AT THE TIME, APPEARS LIKELY TO HAVE CAUSED PHYSICAL INJURY. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ANY INJURED PERSONS SHALL BE OBTAINED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

V. DEBRIEFING

- A. MANAGEMENT AND/OR SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL SHALL PLAN AND FACILITATE DEBRIEFINGS OF ANY USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS WHICH RESULT IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH TO CITIZENS, OFFICERS, OR SUSPECTS. THE DEBRIEFINGS SHALL INCLUDE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT AND ANY OTHER CONCERNED PERSONNEL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COORDINATING MANAGER/SUPERVISOR. THEY SHOULD OCCUR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE INCIDENT, BUT NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTERWARDS.

- I. EXAMPLES OF FACTORS WHICH MAY AFFECT AN OFFICER'S USE OF REASONABLE FORCE:
  - A. OFFICER/SUBJECT FACTORS (AGE, SIZE, RELATIVE STRENGTH, SKILL LEVEL, INJURY/EXHAUSTION, NUMBER OF OFFICERS VS. SUBJECTS)
  - B. INFLUENCE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR MENTAL CAPACITY
  - C. PROXIMITY TO WEAPONS
  - D. AVAILABILITY OF OTHER OPTIONS
  - E. SERIOUSNESS OF THE SUSPECTED OFFENSE
  - F. POTENTIAL FOR INJURY TO CITIZENS, OFFICERS, AND SUSPECTS
  - G. OTHER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
  
- II. TYPES OF FORCE WHICH MAY BE APPLIED INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
  - A. DISPLAYS OF FORCE - PHYSICAL CONTACT MAY OCCUR, ALTHOUGH PHYSICAL INJURY IS NOT LIKELY.
    - 1. DISPLAY OF IMPACT WEAPONS
    - 2. DISPLAY OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
    - 3. DISPLAY OF FIREARM
    - 4. MERE PRESENCE
    - 5. CANINE OR MOUNTED PRESENCE
    - 6. VOICE COMMANDS
    - 7. PHYSICAL CONTACT: DIRECTIONAL TOUCHING OR PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF PERSONS, ABSENT THE USE OF A COMPLIANCE HOLD.
  
  - B. APPLICATION OF FORCE - FORCE USED MAY OR MAY NOT CAUSE INJURY, DEPENDING UPON THE RESISTANCE LEVEL OF THE SUBJECT.
    - 1. USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
    - 2. USE OF RESTRAINT DEVICES
    - 3. USE OF KICKS/PUNCHES/STRIKES/GRABS/TAKEDOWNS
    - 4. USE OF THE CAROTID CONSTRICTION - LIMITED TO SITUATIONS OF SELF-DEFENSE OR DEFENSE OF ANOTHER ONLY;
    - 5. USE OF CONTROL/COMPLIANCE HOLDS
    - 6. CANINE OR MOUNTED APPLICATION
    - 7. USE OF VEHICLES
    - 8. USE OF IMPACT WEAPONS, INCLUDING WEAPONS OF NECESSITY\*

\* IN SITUATIONS OF SELF-DEFENSE OR DEFENSE OF ANOTHER, WHERE STANDARD WEAPONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE OR PRACTICAL, OFFICERS MAY USE ANY WEAPON AT HAND, IF NECESSARY.

C. DEADLY FORCE - ANY FORCE USED IN WHICH DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED.

1. EMPTY HANDS
2. FIREARMS
3. IMPACT WEAPONS, INCLUDING WEAPONS OF NECESSITY
4. VEHICLES/LEGAL INTERVENTION