



GENERAL ORDER

Use of Force

Purpose and Scope

This purpose of this order is to provide peace officers with a standard for the reasonable use of force.

Affected Personnel

All peace officers

Effective Date

May 1, 2017

I. Preamble

The Sacramento County Probation Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life. While the Department remains committed to the sanctity and preservation of life, it acknowledges there are those individuals who will not comply with the law or submit to the lawful directives of peace officers and must be compelled to do so by the use of reasonable force.

II. Foundation

Pursuant to California Penal Code 835a, "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 affect 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." Penal Code Section 835a applies to peace officers working in every division in the department.

III. Use of Force Policy

It is the policy of this department that peace officers shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable given the facts and circumstances perceived by the peace officer at the time of the event, to effectively and humanely bring an incident under control. The force used must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at

the time of the incident. Peace officers shall continue to use reasonable measures to de-escalate evolving situations and seek voluntary compliance with lawful directives to resolve situations without using force.

- A. The use of force is defined as any physical effort used to control, restrain, or overcome the resistance of another.
- B. Peace officers may use objectively reasonable force in the performance of their duties when they reasonably believe any of the following conditions exist:
 - 1. In self-defense, or in defense of another person;
 - 2. To prevent the commission of a public offense;
 - 3. To effect a lawful arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance; or
 - 4. To protect a person from injuring him/herself.
- C. Peace officers may use deadly force in the performance of their duties when they reasonably believe that there exists an imminent threat of death or great bodily injury to themselves or to another person.
- D. The objective to applying reasonable force is to control persons and incidents thereby minimizing injury to all persons involved. Nothing in this policy requires a peace officer to actually sustain physical injury before applying reasonable force, nor must they wait to be attacked before the application of reasonable force.

IV. Application of Force

The application of force may or may not cause injury, depending upon the resistance level of the subject. In situations of self-defense or defense of another, where standard weapons are not available or practical, peace officers may find it necessary to use unconventional weapons to survive the incident. The policy recognizes that the peace officer never loses the right to self-defense; however the use of weapons other than those issued must be justified in the report.

V. Duty to Intervene

Any peace officer perceiving another officer using force beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances should, if necessary, intervene and promptly report his/her observations and actions to a supervisor or manager.

VI. Medical Considerations

- A. Peace officers shall ensure that medical assistance is promptly obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, has an observed injury, and/or complains of injury or continuing pain, or who loses consciousness following a use of force event.
- B. If safety permits, an individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter shall be continuously monitored until he/she can be medically assessed.

VII. Reporting Use of Force

- A. All uses of force shall be reported via telephone or in person to a supervisor as soon as reasonably practical.
- B. All use of force events shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately via a written electronic report and, if applicable, shall be documented in any associated arrest/offense report.

References

California Penal Code

Amends/Replaces

Administrative Policy and Procedure, Use of Force

Authorized By _____



Lee Seale, Chief Probation Officer

Date _____

3/29/17