

WHEN ARE OFFICERS ALLOWED TO USE FORCE?

Old Policy: Any use of force had to be objectively reasonable—this was a very general standard that asked only whether the officer acted in a way that an average officer would in the same situation.

Proposed New Policy: The new policy is stricter. Force must still be objectively reasonable, but *also* be necessary under the circumstances, and proportional to the threat facing the officer.

WHEN ARE OFFICERS PROHIBITED FROM USING FORCE?

Old Policy: Officers were prohibited from excessive force, but the term was undefined.

They also were prohibited from (1) firing warning shots, or (2) firing at a moving vehicle unless defending against deadly force.

Proposed New Policy: The new policy clarifies what excessive means with several examples (e.g. force against someone already handcuffed).

The new policy also adds additional restrictions on the use of force, such as prohibiting chokeholds.

WHEN ARE OFFICERS ALLOWED TO USE DEADLY FORCE?

Old Policy: Officers could only use deadly force to protect people from immediate threats of death or serious physical harm.

Officers also were prohibited from using deadly force to (1) protect property; or (2) make an arrest or prevent escape, unless the person fleeing posed an imminent threat of death or serious physical harm.

Proposed New Policy: The new policy adds additional restrictions on the use of deadly force: officers are now *also* prohibited from reaching into or putting themselves into the path of a vehicle. (This is to avoid creating risks of harm that officers may then need to use deadly force to resolve.)

The new policy provides clearer guidance on when deadly force may be used to prevent escape.

WHEN MUST OFFICERS ATTEMPT TO DE-ESCALATE?

Old Policy: Officers were encouraged to use de-escalation tactics before using force.

Proposed New Policy: Officers are now required to use de-escalation tactics before using force. The policy suggests several de-escalation tactics, such as creating distance between the officer and the threat.

WHAT MUST AN OFFICER DO AFTER USING FORCE?

Old Policy: After a use of force, officers were required to (1) request a supervisor to the scene, and (2) obtain medical assistance for anyone who appeared injured or complained of injury.

Proposed New Policy: Officers now have a duty to provide medical aid to anyone injured after a use of force (e.g. providing emergency first aid).

In addition, officers must now request immediate medical care in certain circumstances, even if there are no visible injuries or complaints of injury (e.g. any use of force against children or the elderly).