



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: USE OF FORCE-BATON		NO: F-600	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: January 1, 2021	REVISED: January 1, 2021	UPDATED: January 1, 2021

APPLICABILITY

When used in this policy the terms, “officer”, “peace officer”, or “deputies” shall include both sheriff’s deputies and detentions deputies.

POLICY

Peace officer members of the Sheriff’s Office are permitted to use a baton to subdue a person when the officer is acting within the guidelines of P.C. 835a and DPPM F-100; and the use of the baton reasonably appears necessary to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance.

Detention officers are permitted to use a baton under limited circumstances, as directed and authorized by their facility manager or shift supervisor, to prevent injury to any person by a prisoner, prevent prisoner escape, or to quell a riot in or about any jail facility.

In all cases, the use of a baton shall only be used by trained and authorized members of the Sheriff’s Office and shall conform to the policies and procedures set forth in this manual.

Members of the Sheriff’s Office, authorized to carry or use a baton, shall only carry or use Sheriff’s Office-issued or Sheriff’s Office-approved batons. **The use of “saps”, “sap gloves”, “billy clubs”, or similar unauthorized devices by employees of the Kern County Sheriff’s Office is prohibited.**

Approved Batons - The Sheriff’s Office will issue straight, wooden batons. Batons must be black in color, made of hard wood, 1 ¼ inches in diameter (round) and 29 inches in length with rounded ends, have a smooth surface without holes or grooves, and not have any intentional marks aside from inconspicuous markings containing the deputy’s name, initials, or identification number. Deputies will ensure that excessively worn or damaged batons are turned in and replaced.

Members of the Sheriff’s Office, authorized to carry or use a baton, may use a baton longer than the standard 29 inches baton, when specifically authorized by the highest-ranking officer at the scene or in charge of the event.

Deputies may carry their own batons, providing they conform to the above specifications and they are purchased and maintained at the deputy’s expense.

Any exception to this specification must be approved by the Sheriff-Coroner.

Deputies who have been trained and certified by the Sheriff's Office's Defensive Tactics Team in the use of a collapsible baton may carry a collapsible baton in accordance with this policy. The collapsible baton shall be carried in lengths of 25" to 31", when fully extended. The collapsible baton must be black with no chrome parts and have a textured matte or machine foam grip.

Any exception to this specification must be approved by the Sheriff-Coroner.

The following uniformed tactical units are authorized to carry the collapsible baton when deployed in the course of their assignment:

- SWAT
- SERT
- K-9
- Bike Patrol

Uniformed deputies assigned to the Field Operations Bureau will have their straight baton available when on duty. The wooden baton is the primary baton; however, a collapsible baton may be used in lieu of the wooden baton when the situation dictates.

Transportation or Court Services may carry the collapsible baton in place of the wooden baton in that work environment.

Deputies assigned to non-uniformed duties may carry the collapsible baton in place of the wooden baton in that work environment.

Uniformed Detentions Deputies will have their straight baton available while on duty. Neither Detentions Deputies nor Detentions Officers will carry a Sheriff's Office issued baton on their person while off duty.

Deputies resorting to the use of a baton, as with any other impact weapons, shall avoid striking a subject's head, neck, throat, spine, kidney, or groin due to the potential for serious injury or death. Striking these areas shall be avoided unless necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious injury to the deputy or others, and no other resources or techniques are reasonably safe or feasible as perceived by an objectively reasonable officer.

PROCEDURE

The officer who has used a baton to arrest a suspect will:

- Follow the reporting procedure in F-100;
- Transport the suspect to a medical facility if necessary;
- Advise any transporting officer that a baton was used.

F-600-2

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Any officer transporting an arrested person on which a baton has been used will:

- Advise detention facility personnel of the fact;
- Advise any medical or first aid treatment given;
- Comply with any requests by detention facility personnel for further medical treatment prior to booking.

F-600-3

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