

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1350 Norris Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308
661.391.7500 - www.kernsheriff.org

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



Supervisory Use of Force Investigation

Managerial Considerations in Determining Policy Compliance

Managers will evaluate the reasonableness of each use of force and determine policy compliance by evaluating each force event in light of the circumstances known or reasonably perceived by the involved personnel at the time of the incident. The following are examples of factors that may be considered in determining if the force used was consistent with Department policy:

- Whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to public safety or to the safety of Department personnel;
- The severity of the crime;
- Whether the suspect was actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest;
- Whether a verbal warning was given and/or feasible given the circumstances;
- Whether the suspect had been given a reasonable opportunity to deescalate and comply with directives;
- The availability of other options to de-escalate tense and evolving incidents;
- The risk of foreseeable consequences of not immediately apprehending the suspect;
- Factors such as size, strength, fitness, skill, training and numerical superiority of the subject(s) and Department personnel;
- Prior contacts with the suspect(s) and/or knowledge of the suspect's propensity for violence;
- The level of threat or resistance by the suspect;
- The proportionality of the force used to the level of threat or resistance encountered;
- Indicia of the suspect's intention or objective;
- Proximity to weapons or items that could be used as weapons;
- The distance between involved Department personnel and the suspect(s);
- The influence of drugs and/or alcohol on the suspect;
- The mental capacity or mental health of the suspect;
- Whether the suspect is a member of a vulnerable population;
- The time available to Department personnel to make decisions;
- Whether deputies promptly provided basic and/or emergency medical assistance;
- Environmental factors such as weather, lighting, footing, availability of cover etc.;
- Exigent circumstances.

Form Instructions:

This form is intended as a guide and does not need to be uploaded.