



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: Critical Incidents – Involved Deputy Status			NO: F-1000
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE: DPPM F-0100, F-1100 & F-1200, DPPM J-0300, J-0400, & J-0410			
EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: January 26, 2026	REVISED: January 26, 2026	UPDATED: January 26, 2026

POLICY

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that often following an incident resulting in a life-threatening injury or death, deputies suffer varying degrees of emotional trauma. In some cases, it may occur immediately, or several hours, days, or months later.

In an effort to lessen this traumatic impact on the deputy(ies), and to aid the Sheriff's Office in an objective resolution of the incident, the involved deputy(ies) shall immediately be placed in an administratively deferred duty assignment. Such assignments will be made by the involved deputy'(s) Bureau Chief or designee.

This deferred duty status shall be reviewed by the appropriate Chief Deputy, who will determine when the involved deputy(ies) may return to full duty status.

If the incident results in death, the appropriate Chief Deputy shall schedule a confidential appointment with the county designated psychologist/psychiatrist at the earliest possible time. This is a mandatory appointment which the involved deputy(ies) are required to attend.

Continued counseling will be on the recommendation of the psychologist/psychiatrist and can include family members of the deputy(ies) involved.

Counseling shall be available to all deputy(ies) or other Sheriff's Office personnel directly or indirectly involved in the incident.

In all cases of a deputy-involved shooting, the Sheriff's Office shall offer its full support for the physical and emotional well-being of all deputies involved and their families, including but not limited to the Sheriff's Office Peer Support Team, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Debrief, Chaplain Services, and Shielding the Front Line Kern County.

The involved deputy(ies) shall be allowed and encouraged to call their family and inform them of the incident and their well-being as soon as possible.