



## *Kern County Sheriff's Office*

# **Policies and Procedures**

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| TITLE: <b>Use of Firearms – Detentions Deputies</b>                                                      |                               |                              | NO: F-0150                   |
| APPROVED: <b>Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner</b>                                                       |                               |                              |                              |
| REFERENCE: <b>Penal Code 830.1(c) &amp; PC 25450, DPPM B-0250, DPPM F-0100, DPPM G-0700 &amp; G-0720</b> |                               |                              |                              |
| EFFECTIVE:<br>April 12, 1997                                                                             | REVIEWED:<br>January 26, 2026 | REVISED:<br>January 26, 2026 | UPDATED:<br>January 26, 2026 |

## **POLICY**

Peace officer members of the Sheriff's Office are permitted to use firearms when the deputy is acting within the guidelines of PC 835a and DPPM F-0100, and the Guiding Principles outlined in that policy. In the course of their duties, Detentions Deputies may be confronted with hazardous situations that require the use of deadly force. Therefore, the Sheriff-Coroner may authorize specified Detentions Deputies to carry firearms while performing their duties. A Detentions Deputy so authorized is designated as being "armed." Additionally, pursuant to their status as peace officers, all Detentions Deputies are authorized by law to carry a concealed weapon while off duty, subject to the provisions of this policy.

## **ARMED DESIGNATION**

The authority to designate a Detentions Deputy as being armed rests with the Sheriff-Coroner, who may delegate that authority to the Chief Deputy of the Detentions Bureau. At his/her sole discretion, the Sheriff-Coroner may revoke a Detentions Deputy's designation as an armed Detentions Deputy. Prior to being designated by the Sheriff-Coroner as an armed Detentions Deputy, a member must meet the following qualifications:

- Be employed as a Detentions Deputy;
- Attend and successfully complete Force Options for Detentions training;
- Attend regularly scheduled firearms training and pass regularly scheduled firearms qualifications as detailed in Section G-200 of this Manual in order to maintain the armed officer designation.

Detentions Deputies who are not designated as being armed will be required to participate in, and successfully complete, an annual four (4)-hour firearm use and safety training course provided by the Sheriff's Office.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS – ON DUTY**

All Armed Detentions Deputies will adhere to the following provisions and limitations related to carrying a firearm while on-duty:

- Designation as an “Armed” Detentions Deputy does not authorize a Detentions Deputy to take law enforcement action beyond the limitations detailed in Penal Code 830.1 (c) and in DPPM Section B-0250.
  - In accordance with DPPM B-0250, Detentions Deputies shall not intervene in situations that require a law enforcement response when the response is unrelated to the Detentions Deputy’s custodial duties. In situations where officers witness an unrelated crime in progress or are contacted by a citizen regarding such an incident, the Detentions Deputy will contact dispatch to have the appropriate law enforcement personnel dispatched.
- Armed Detentions Deputies may carry their duty weapon while on-duty, in uniform, and carrying out their primary function of their employment or relating to their custodial assignment unless inside the secure area of a jail. Armed Detentions Deputies may only carry firearms inside the secure area of a jail when authorized during an emergency situation pursuant to Section B-100 of Detentions Bureau Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Armed Detentions Deputies must carry their duty weapon when assigned to any post or duty designated by policy as requiring an armed Detentions Deputy or when directed by a supervisor to do so.
- Armed Detentions Deputies will carry their duty weapon fully loaded with departmentally approved ammunition.
- Armed Detentions Deputies assigned to a position or duty that requires the deputy to carry their duty pistol will carry two (2) extra magazines fully loaded with departmentally approved ammunition.
- In order to be prepared for an assignment for which their firearm is required, Armed Detentions Deputies will keep their departmentally issued firearms, uniform duty belts, and other related equipment (e.g. body armor) reasonably accessible while on-duty.
- Armed Detentions Deputies may carry backup weapons subject to the requirements of DPPM G-702 and within the other described limitations of this policy.
- Armed Detentions Deputies not in uniform may carry their departmentally issued firearm while on-duty only if approved by the Sheriff or his/her designee.
- On-duty armed Detentions Deputies authorized to carry a firearm while not in uniform may carry a Glock 26 subject to the provisions of DPPM G-700 and with prior approval of their Division Commander. This weapon must be loaded with departmentally approved ammunition.

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- On-duty armed Detentions Deputies carrying a firearm while not in uniform will conceal the weapon if practical. If it is not practical to conceal the weapon, the Detentions Deputy will wear his/her department identification card and/or badge clearly visible on their person.
- Detentions Deputies who are not designated as being “armed” will not carry a firearm while on-duty.

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS – OFF-DUTY**

As peace officers described in Penal Code 830.1(c), Detentions Deputies are authorized by Penal Code 25450 to carry a concealed firearm. The carrying of a firearm while off-duty is a personal decision of a Detentions Deputy. The Kern County Sheriff’s Office does not encourage the carrying of a firearm while off-duty.

All Detentions Deputies (regardless of “armed” status) are authorized by law to carry a concealed weapon while off-duty, subject to the following provisions:

- Any consequence or liability arising out of any act or incident involving any personal firearm during off-duty hours unrelated to the Detentions Deputy’s custodial duties shall be the sole, personal responsibility of the officer taking the action or involved in the incident.
- No such off-duty action or incident unrelated to the Detentions Deputy’s custodial duties shall be deemed official, permitted, or authorized by the Department as an exercise of the peace officer authority provided for in Section 830.1(c) of the Penal code.
- Any misuse of a personal firearm, criminal or otherwise, by an employee of this department shall subject the employee to discipline that may include suspension of the officer’s privilege to carry a firearm on and/or off duty, discipline up to and including termination, and recommended criminal prosecution.
- Armed Detentions Deputies may not carry any departmentally issued firearm or ammunition on their person while off-duty.
  - **EXCEPTION:** If authorized by the Sheriff-Coroner or their designee, armed Detentions Deputies may carry their departmentally issued firearm while off-duty if they are in uniform and are attending an official departmental ceremony (e.g., funeral, peace officer’s memorial ceremony.)
- With cause, the Sheriff may suspend a Detentions Deputy’s right to carry a firearm on and/or off duty.

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