



A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A comprehensive look at Centerville Police Department use-of-force policies



Since 1989, the Centerville Police Department has been a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency. As such, we hold ourselves responsible for maintaining the high standards set forth by the Commission in cooperation with law enforcement's major executive associations.

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- National Sheriff's Association (NSA)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)





BAN CHOKEHOLDS

Chokeholds and strangleholds are not authorized for use by Centerville Police Officers unless it is necessary to prevent serious injury or death to themselves or others.

CPD General Order 1.3.2 (C4)

"In our continuing efforts to provide exceptional police service to the community, the Centerville Police Department makes every effort to be transparent about our policies and procedures."

- Chief of Police Matthew Brown

REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

Centerville Police Officers are required to attend Mental Health First Aid training that addresses our response to at-risk populations as well as the cumulative effect of trauma on law enforcement. We also employ scenario-based "force on force" training to allow officers the opportunity to escalate or de-escalate a situation based upon rapidly evolving circumstances. Since these two programs have been implemented, we have seen a 50% reduction in our use of force.



DUTY TO INTERVENE

The Centerville Police Department requires an officer who views excessive force to intervene as soon as he or she is able to do so. This policy also requires that the conduct be reported to their supervisor as soon as possible.

CPD General Order 1.3.1 (C)(D)



REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

A warning that deadly force will be used is not required but should be given if circumstances allow.

“The value of human life is immeasurable in our society. We, as police officers, have been delegated the awesome responsibility to protect life and property and apprehend criminal offenders. The apprehension of criminal offenders and property protection must at all times be subservient to the protection of life. The officer’s responsibility for protecting life must include his own.”

CPD General Order 1.3.2 (A)

EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

An officer may use deadly force when it is absolutely necessary to protect himself or others from what he reasonably believes to be a threat of death or serious physical injury. An officer may also use deadly force to affect the capture, prevent an escape or recapture an escapee only when the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others.

CPD General Order 1.3.2 (C1) (C2)



SHOOTING AT/FROM MOVING VEHICLES

Centerville Police Officers are not forbidden from shooting at moving vehicles. Our policy reads: "Officers shall not discharge a firearm at or from a moving motor vehicle except as the ultimate measure of self-defense or defense of another."

CPD General Order 1.3.3 (A3)



USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

Police Officers are required to make split-second decisions in rapidly-changing situations. The Use of Force Continuum is an outdated concept that has since been replaced by the "Force on Force" model. Our officers are trained to counter any resistance or aggression that is offered with the least amount of force necessary to gain control or compliance based upon what a reasonable and prudent officer would consider appropriate for that situation.

CPD General Order 1.3.1

REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

The Centerville Police Department requires that all "use of force" incidents be properly documented, investigated and reviewed for compliance with policy as well as potential training topics.

CPD General Orders 1.3.6 & 1.3.7

