



# DEADLY FORCE



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## I. PURPOSE

This directive:

- A. sets forth Department policy regarding a sworn member's use of [deadly force](#).
- B. establishes guidelines controlling the use of deadly force by sworn members.

## II. DEPARTMENT POLICY

A. A sworn member is justified in using force likely to cause death or great bodily harm only when he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary:

- 1. to prevent death or great bodily harm to the sworn member or to another person, or:
- 2. to [prevent an arrest from being defeated by resistance or escape](#) and the sworn member reasonably believes that the person to be arrested:
  - a. has committed or has attempted to commit a [forcible felony](#) which involves the infliction, threatened infliction, or threatened use of physical force likely to cause death or great bodily harm or;
  - b. is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon or;
  - c. otherwise indicates that he or she will endanger human life or inflict great bodily harm unless arrested without delay.

B. Sworn members who discharge a firearm will comply with the procedures detailed in the Department directive entitled "**Firearms Discharge Incidents Involving Sworn Members.**"

## III. DEPARTMENT PROHIBITIONS FOR USE OF DEADLY FORCE

Use of firearms in the following ways is prohibited:

- A. Firing into crowds.
- B. Firing warning shots.
- C. Firing into buildings or through doors, windows, or other openings when the person lawfully fired at is not clearly visible.
- D. Firing at a subject whose action is only a threat to the subject himself (e.g., attempted suicide).
- E. Firing at or into a moving vehicle when the vehicle is the only force used against the sworn member or another person.

## IV. AFFIRMATION OF PROTECTION OF LIFE POLICY

Sworn members will not unreasonably endanger themselves or another person to conform to the restrictions of this directive.

(Items indicated by *italics/double underline* have been added or revised)

Garry F. McCarthy  
Superintendent of Police

15-025 MWK

**GLOSSARY TERMS:**

1. **Deadly Force (720 ILCS 5/7-8)**

- A. Deadly force is force which is likely to cause death or great bodily harm and includes
  - 1. The firing of a firearm in the direction of the person to be arrested, even though no intent exists to kill or inflict great bodily harm; and
  - 2. The firing of a firearm at a vehicle in which the person to be arrested is riding.
- B. A peace officer's discharge of a firearm using ammunition designed to disable or control an individual without creating the likelihood of death or great bodily harm (i.e., impact munitions) shall not be considered force likely to cause death or bodily harm

2. **Use of Force to Prevent Escape (720 ILCS 5/7-9)**

A peace officer or other person who has an arrested person in custody is justified in the use of such force to prevent the escape of the arrested person from custody as he would be justified in using if he were arresting the person.

3. **Forcible Felony (720 ILCS 5/2-8)**

A forcible felony means any treason, first degree murder, second degree murder, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault, robbery, burglary, residential burglary, aggravated arson, arson, aggravated kidnapping, kidnapping, aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement, and any other felony which involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against any individual.