



**Lakewood Police Department  
Policy and Procedure**

**Effective Date:  
06/26/2025**

**Policy Number: PP – 4501  
USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE**

**A. Policy**

Police Agents making arrests and carrying out their other duties shall, when possible, apply nonviolent means before resorting to the use of physical force. By law, physical force may only be used if nonviolent means would be ineffective in effecting an arrest, preventing an escape, or preventing an imminent threat of injury to the Agent or another person.

**B. Procedure**

1. When taking a person into protective custody who is intoxicated or incapacitated by alcohol or drugs and clearly dangerous to the health or safety of himself, herself, or others, the agents may use reasonable methods to protect themselves while using only the degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to the detainee and others per Section 27-81-111, C.R.S.
2. To prevent a person from committing suicide or inflicting serious bodily injury upon themselves to the extent reasonably necessary to thwart the result; or
3. To take a person, who appears to have a mental health disorder and appears to be an imminent danger to himself/herself or others, or appears to be gravely disabled, into protective custody for a mental health evaluation per Section 27-65-106.
4. When physical force is used, Agents will not use deadly force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a minor or non-violent offense:
5. Ensure assistance and medical aid are rendered to any injured persons as soon as practicable.
6. Sworn employees shall demonstrate proficiency in the use of department authorized weapons prior to receiving authorization to carry such weapons.
7. At least annually, each sworn employee shall receive in-service training on any changes in the department's Use of Force policies and procedures and shall demonstrate proficiency with any approved weapon that the employee is authorized to use. The instruction and proficiency shall be documented.
8. Written reports documenting the use of physical force, the use of weapons, actions resulting in actual or alleged injury or death, and the discharge of a firearm for other than training or recreational purposes are completed for each incident as described in the following sections.
9. All sworn employees will receive instruction in and copies of Use of Force policies and procedures before being authorized to carry a weapon. The instruction and issuance shall be documented.

**C. Rule**

1. In no instance shall police agents use force other than that which is objectively reasonable to lawfully and properly neutralize an unlawful assault, to overcome resistance by a person being taken

into custody or into protective custody, to prevent a suicide or an attempted suicide, or to prevent the escape of a person in custody.