



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

512 Pointing of Firearm

Section 500 – Force Related Procedures

Effective Date: 10/1/2023

Supersedes Date: N/A

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to provide department personnel with guidelines for the appropriate use of pointing a firearm as a show of force.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 504 Body Worn Camera](#)

[GO 510 Use of Force Reporting](#)

[GO 1530 Firearm Regulations](#)

[DL-1000-02 Law Enforcement Decision-Making](#)

.03 Discussion

Sworn members are sometimes faced with circumstances in which objective and reasonable facts support the need for the sworn member to point a firearm at another person to limit the possibility of risk of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or others.

.04 Policy

Sworn members will only point or actively target a firearm at an involved person if the circumstances surrounding the incident create an objectively reasonable belief that the situation is at or may escalate to the point where deadly force may be authorized.

Once a sworn member determines that the use of deadly force is no longer likely, the sworn member will transition to the low/compressed ready position and/or holster the firearm.

Pointing a firearm is considered a reportable show of force, not a use of force. Each sworn member who points a firearm at another person will complete a BlueTeam report as outlined in GO 510 Use of Force Reporting.

.05 Definitions

Compressed Ready: An instructed tactic in which a sworn member has unholstered a firearm but is disciplined in holding it close to their chest while pointing the firearm's muzzle in a safe direction, not at a person.

Involved Person: Any person whose actions or associations with an incident indicate they are responsible for or associated with an event.

Low Ready Position: An instructed tactic in which a sworn member has unholstered a firearm but is disciplined in pointing it outward at the ground toward a threat, not at the person.

Pointing of Firearm: The act of pointing the muzzle of a firearm at and actively targeting a person.

Show of Force: When a firearm is pointed at another person but is not discharged.

Sworn Member: For the purpose of this policy, sworn members include police officers and city marshals who have successfully completed initial and ongoing firearms training and who are authorized by the department to carry a firearm in the performance of their assigned duties. This includes sworn members of other law enforcement agencies who are assigned to units that are administratively assigned to the department (e.g., Task Force Officers, detectives assigned to units with regional responsibilities, etc.).

.10 Pointing of Firearm Authorized

Sworn members are permitted to point a firearm at an involved person if the circumstances surrounding the incident create an objectively reasonable belief that the situation is at or may escalate to the point where deadly force may be authorized.

Once an authorized circumstance is no longer present, a sworn member will immediately cease pointing a firearm at a person, either by holstering the firearm or putting it into the low/compressed ready positions, depending on the circumstances and the sworn member's safety considerations.

.12 Factors to Consider in Pointing of Firearms

When determining whether to point a firearm at an involved person, sworn personnel will be able to articulate the following points:

- The seriousness of the suspected offense/reason for the contact
- Their legal authority
- The suspect's actions
- The immediacy and nature of a threat posed to the sworn member **or** others

These considerations must be assessed as to what is taking place *in the moment*.

.30 BWC Classification

For classification purposes only, sworn members who point a firearm at another person will classify their body-worn camera as a use of force.

.40 Pointing of Firearm Training

All sworn members will receive annual training on components of the department's pointing of firearm policy and processes. All pointing of firearm training and policy reviews will be documented using the department's established databases.