



## USE OF FORCE DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST



### **Knowledge**

- What type of call was it that led to the incident?
- What information did you have prior to responding to the incident?
- How was information obtained?
- What was your knowledge of the suspect prior to the incident?
- Did you know the suspect? Had you dealt with the suspect in the past?
- Did assisting officers know the suspect?
- Describe your understanding of the threat level (e.g., violent nature of the suspect, skills and abilities of the suspect, if the suspect had a weapon, etc.)
- What is the availability of assistance? Are back up officers on the scene? How far away is the back up?
- What role did your training and experience play in processing the information and responding to the incident?
- Describe what conclusions you drew from all the above information.

### **Environment**

- What was the weather like?
- What were your surroundings (city/rural, lots of people/no people, forest/grasslands/desert, suspect's home/neighborhood with his family/friends around you)?
- Is there a crowd of innocent people behind/around the subject?
- What was the approximate time of day when the incident started and ended?
- Describe the lighting (natural, artificial, from vehicles, buildings, etc.).
- What was the ground like (asphalt, rocky, snow, wet, dry)?

### **Officer's Physical Identification**

- Were you dressed in uniform or plain clothes?
- Describe your attire in detail, specifically noting anything that identified you as a police officer.
- Were you wearing a vest?
- What type of vehicle did you use to respond to the incident (marked, unmarked, specialized vehicle)?
- How did you respond to the incident (lights/sirens, blacked out, on foot, etc.)?
- Describe anything that would indicate that the suspect knew you were a police officer (activated your emergency lights, etc.).

### **Suspect**

- What are the characteristics of the suspect as compared to the characteristics of the officer (size, age, abilities, etc.)?
- How many suspects were involved in the incident?
- Where was the suspect when you first saw him? How far away from you was he?
- Describe his movements?

- Where were his hands?
- Did you see a weapon? When?
- Describe the weapon.
- Which hand did he hold the weapon in?
- Describe the demeanor of the suspect. Did it change? Describe how?
- What was the threat level and did it change as the incident progressed?
- What was the threat level at the time the commands or warning was given? Did it change?
- Did the suspect appear impaired (drugs, alcohol, hallucinations, excited delirium, etc.)?
- What was the subject's access to weapons or potential weapons?
- What was the proximity of the subject to the officer or others?
- How did the suspect's actions make you concerned (for yourself, for others) - what was your perception of the threat?

### **Verbal Identification/Commands and/or Warnings**

- Did you give any type of verbal identification of who you were ("Police")?
  - Estimate number of times identification was given.
  - Did any other officer give verbal identification?
  - What did the officer say?
  - Did the suspect look at you when you identified yourself?
  - What did the suspect say when you identified yourself?
  - What was the suspect doing before you identified yourself?
  - How did the suspect's actions change or did he continue to act in the same way?
  - Did the suspect indicate in any other way that he heard and/or understood you?
  - How did the suspect's actions make you concerned (for yourself, for others) - what was your perception of the threat?
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- What did the suspect say (either to you or anyone else) during the incident?
  - What language did the suspect speak?
  - Did the suspect have any noticeable disability (hearing, speech, visual)?
  - Were there witnesses that you're aware of, who should have heard your or other officers' verbalizations?
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- Did you ask the suspect any questions?
  - What specifically did you ask?
  - What did the suspect say in response?
  - How did the suspect's actions change or did he continue to act in the same way after you asked the question(s)?
  - Did the suspect indicate in any other way that he heard and/or understood you?
  - How did the suspect's actions make you concerned (for yourself, for others) - what was your perception of the threat?
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- Did you or any other officer give commands and/or warnings?
  - What specifically did you or the other the officer(s) say?
  - Were there other conflicting noises that could have made it difficult for the suspect to hear you?
  - Did the suspect indicate in any way that he heard and/or understood you?
  - Did the suspect respond to your commands verbally?

- How did the suspect's actions change or did he continue to act in the same way after you gave the command(s)?
- Did the suspect indicate in any other way that he heard and/or understood you?
- How did the suspect's actions make you concerned (for yourself, for others) - what was your perception of the threat?
- Did you use a show of force?
- When did you draw your tool/weapon and why?
- Which tool/weapon was drawn and why (Taser, baton, pistol/rifle, backup/primary)?
- Was tool/weapon aimed or at low ready?

### **Use of Force**

- What weapons/devices (lethal, less-lethal) were you carrying?
- What weapons/devices were available to you at the time incident occurred (lethal, less-lethal, weapon of opportunity)?
- What was the crime that had been committed?
  - Document the severity of the crime - not only the one that you responded to, but the one committed in front of you (resisting/evading/obstructing, assault/battery on someone in your presence, assault on a peace officer, batter on a peace officer, etc.)
- What actions did the suspect take to create the perceived threat level?
  2. What was the immediacy (and severity) of the threat?
  3. How was the suspect actively resisting or attempting to flee?

<u>Subject's Actions</u>	<u>Description of Subject's Resistance</u>	<u>Possible Response Option</u>
Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject offers no resistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional command appearance</li> <li>• Non-verbal actions</li> <li>• Requests and/or commands</li> </ul>
Passive Non-Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not respond to verbal commands but also offers no physical form of resistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer's strength to take physical control, including lifting/carrying</li> <li>• Control holds and techniques to escort, direct movement, and/or immobilize a subject.</li> </ul>
Active Resistance	Physically evasive movements to defeat an officer's attempt to control, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bracing, tensing,</li> <li>• Running away</li> <li>• Verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into or retained in custody.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control holds and techniques to control the subject and situation.</li> <li>• Use of hands, arms, elbows, legs, feet, and knees, etc., in self-defense and to gain advantage over the subject.</li> <li>• Use of devices to secure compliance and gain control of the situation.</li> </ul>
Assaultive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive or combative; attempting or threatening to assault the officer or another person.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of devices and/or techniques to secure compliance and ultimately gain control of the subject and situation.</li> <li>• Use of hands, arms, elbows, legs, feet, and knees, etc., in self-defense and to gain advantage over the subject.</li> </ul>

Life Threatening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any action likely to result in serious bodily injury and/or the death of the officer or others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizing firearms or any other available weapon or action in defense of self and others.</li> </ul>
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- What less lethal device (OC spray, TASER, etc.) was deployed?
- What it effective? What was the suspect's response to the deployment?
- If the device was used again, what did the suspect do to cause it to be used again?
  - How did the suspect's actions make you concerned (for yourself, for others) - what was your perception of the threat?
- What actions did you take after you used force (handcuffing, etc.)?
- Did you render first aid after the incident? How did you render aid, or why did you not render aid?
- Did you take any photographs at the scene or suspect? What, if anything, did you do with the photographs?

### **Officer Injuries**

- How were the injuries sustained?
- When and where did you receive your injuries?
- Describe injuries.
- Where were you treated? Who treated you?
- What is your current condition and prognosis?

### **Use of Deadly Force (questions during an interview)**

- Where is evidence that needs to be preserved?
- Location of any witnesses?
- Were any vehicles or equipment moved after the use of deadly force?
- Location where you or another officer used any firearm(s)?
- Location where you or another officer deployed less lethal devices or any other type of equipment?
- How was your gun loaded? Do you always fill the magazine to capacity? If not, how many rounds were in the magazine?
- Did you do a reload during or after the incident?
- Was your weapon altered in any way from its condition following the incident?
- Did you record the incident? If yes, are any of the recording systems password protected?
- Is this how you were dressed at the time of the shooting? If no, explain.
- What made you perceive that your life was in danger?
- What made you perceive that the life/lives of other(s) were in danger?
- How many rounds were fired?
- What direction were the rounds fired?
- Describe the timing of rounds fired?
- What was the approximate distance from the suspect when shots were fired?
- What was the approximate duration of the incident?

- When was the last time you were trained in use of force and/or on the use of deadly force?
- What is your understanding of when deadly force is permitted?
  
- What actions did you take after the suspect was shot?
- Describe any lifesaving efforts you or others took on behalf of the suspect.