



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Course Title: (Lesson Domain #20: Use of Force/De-escalation)

Hours of Instruction: 3

Course Objectives:

I.

- a) Discuss objectively reasonable force as stated by law
- b) Discuss the components of the Fourth Amendment standard for determining objective reasonableness as determined by the U.S. Supreme Court
- c) Explain the legal framework establishing a peace officer's authority during a legal arrest, including:
 1. A subject's requirement to submit to arrest without resistance
 2. Peace officer's authority to use objectively reasonable force during a detention or arrest
- d) Identify the circumstances set forth in the California Penal Code when a peace officer has the authority to use force
- e) Discuss the level of authority agency policies have regarding the use of force by a peace officer

II.

- a) Define de-escalation
 1. De-escalation is the process of using strategies and techniques intended to decrease the intensity of the situation
 2. Recognize common misconceptions and benefits of de-escalation
 3. Understand the history of de-escalation
- b) Recognize the four core concepts of de-escalation, to include:
 1. Self-control
 2. Effective communication
 3. Scene assessment and management

4. Force options
- c) Understand the components of a Critical Decision-making Model including:
 1. Collect information
 2. Assess situation, threats, and risks
 3. Law and policy
 4. Plan
 5. Act, review, and reassess
- d) Recognize how tactical methods that use time, distance, cover, and concealment assist in de-escalation
- e) Recognize how strategic communication may enhance de-escalation

III.

- a) Define the term “force option”
- b) Identify that the objective of using force is to overcome resistance to gain control of an individual and the situation
- c) Recognize force options and the amount of force peace officers may use based on the subject’s resistance
- d) Explain the importance of training and ongoing practice when responding to potentially dangerous situations that may require the use of force
- e) Discuss the importance of effective communication when using force

IV.

- a) Identify the legal standard for the use of deadly force
- b) Identify the factors required to establish sufficiency of fear for the use of deadly force
- c) Recognize facts an officer should consider when determining whether to use deadly force or not
- d) Discuss the role of agency policies regarding the use of deadly force
- e) Recognize the law regarding justifiable homicide by a peace officer and the circumstances under which the homicide is considered justifiable

V.

- a) Describe why complete documentation of the use of force is critical to the peace officer and the peace officer's agency, to include:
 - 1. Justification for using force
 - 2. Relevant factors and detail
 - 3. De-escalation strategies and techniques utilized
- b) Supervisor responsibilities
- c) State required reporting

VI.

- a) Discuss factors that can affect a peace officer's response when threatened with danger, to include:
 - 1. Fear
 - 2. Reasonable
 - 3. Unreasonable
 - 4. Anger
 - 5. Indecision and hesitation
- b) Give examples of acceptable techniques for managing anger
- c) Describe the benefits of ongoing physical and mental training for peace officers involving the use of force

VII.

- a) Explain the legal and administrative consequences associated with the use of unreasonable force
- b) Explain an agency's potential liability associated with the use of unreasonable force
- c) Explain the consequences of an officer's failure to intercede when unreasonable force is used by another peace officer
- d) Discuss immediate and delayed intervention techniques
- e) Discuss factors that may inhibit a peace officer from intervening in a situation where a fellow officer may be applying unreasonable force