



USE OF FORCE STANDARD PA001

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code 13601(a)(1): The CPOST shall develop, approve, and monitor standards for the selection and training of state correctional peace officer apprentices.

BACKGROUND

Parole Agents (PAs) must be knowledgeable about the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Departmental Use of Force (UOF) policy, and relevant laws. The goal is to create an atmosphere within CDCR where staff operates with minimal reliance on the use of force. Reasonable force will be used by staff when necessary to maintain the safety and security of all persons. The law and policy dictates what force can be used and the general conditions under which force can and cannot be used. All uses of force must be within the guidelines of law and policy.

STANDARD

PAs shall receive comprehensive training in all aspects of the departmental use of force policy that is authorized within their scope of authority.

Basic academies will provide extensive training as to the laws and regulations governing the use of force as well as developing skill sets for force options and the practical application of those options. In addition, basic academies will provide extensive training in the recognition of potentially dangerous situations and the use of de-escalation techniques to minimize the reliance of force options.

PAs will receive annual use of force training.

COMPONENTS OF STANDARD

1. Application of Force – The PAs shall be proficient in the ability to apply objectively reasonable force options in given circumstances and the appropriate documentation of those force options.
2. Problem Solving/Decision-Making –The PAs shall be proficient in analyzing situations and making reasonable decisions about the appropriate action to take based upon the totality of the circumstances.
3. Peace Officer Safety – The PAs must be able to recognize situations where they have the authority to use reasonable force to effect arrest and custody, overcome resistance, and subdue an attacker to prevent escape or gain compliance with a lawful order as authorized by the California Penal Code. Deadly force may only be used upon another person when the PA reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or great bodily injury to the officer or another person.
4. Communication – The PAs will be knowledgeable of and demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques. PAs must understand that individuals with physical, mental, developmental or intellectual disabilities may affect and impair their ability to understand and/or comply with commands from peace officers. Where feasible, a PA shall, before the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer.
5. Ethics – The PAs shall abide by the code of ethics and accepted principles of conduct that govern decisions and actions based applicable law and on professional values and expectations.

CITATIONS

- 1) California Code of Regulations Title 15, Article 1.5, Section 3268, Use of Force
- 2) State of California, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Restricted Department Operations Manual, Section 55050.31
- 3) California Penal Code, Sections: 196-198, 832, 835
- 4) Assembly Bill 392