

X. Use of Force Policy

A. Providence Police Department

Providence Police Use of Force General Order - 300.01 defines and governs the use of physical force, including the use of lethal physical force, by a sworn division member.

General Order 300.01

Use of Force

Section I - PARAMETERS FOR USE OF LETHAL FORCE

Subsection 1 - Police Officers are authorized to use lethal force in order to:

1. Protect himself/herself, another officer, or other person(s) when the officer has a reasonable belief that an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury exists to himself/herself, another officer, or other person(s).
2. Effect the capture of or prevent the escape of a suspect whose freedom represents an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.

Section II - PARAMETERS FOR USE OF LESS-LETHAL FORCE

Subsection 1 - Police Officers are authorized to use Department-approved less lethal force options to accomplish lawful objectives, as follows:

1. To protect themselves or another from physical harm or the imminent use of physical force.
2. To effectively deal with an actively or passively resistant individual.
3. To resolve an unlawful situation safely and effectively.
4. To effect an arrest or prevent the escape of a suspect whom the officer reasonably believes has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offense.
5. To take resistive persons into custody for their own protection when authorized by law, including but not limited to, the following:

- a. Persons who are a danger to themselves or others.
 - b. Persons incapacitated by foreign substances such as alcohol or narcotics.
 - c. Runaway children/juveniles.
6. To assist licensed physicians, psychologists, or other authorized medical personnel in providing necessary medical treatment.

Nothing contained in this section limits an officer's ability to use those means objectively reasonable for self-defense or to accomplish lawful objectives, including but not limited to items of opportunity.

Please reference Appendix XXIII for the complete Providence Police Department Use of Force policy.