

RECOMMENDATION 102215-3

DETERMINING THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE: There should be specific criteria for determining the reasonableness of both the initiation and the continuation of the use of force in any encounter.

FULL TEXT:

DETERMINING THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

There should be specific criteria for determining the reasonableness of both the initiation and the continuation of the use of force in any encounter. At a minimum, the criteria should include:

- a. Officers will take into account all information, when feasible, including behavior, reports, and known history as conveyed to or learned by the officer by any means, indicating that a person has, or is perceived to have, mental illness;
- b. A broad list of facts and circumstances which must be considered in determining the reasonableness of force;
- c. A use of force continuum that emphasizes the requirement that only necessary and proportionate force be used;
- d. A requirement that there be a continuing assessment of the encounter, such that changing facts and circumstances be explicitly taken into account in determining what is objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportionate force at any point in time; and
- e. Since an officer's own actions may cause a need for force, officers should take reasonable care that their actions -- whether consistent with policy and training or not -- do not precipitate an unnecessary unreasonable, or disproportionate use of force, by placing themselves or others in jeopardy.