

---

## Use of Force Review

### 301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a process for the Easton Police Department to review the use of force by its members.

This review process shall be in addition to any other review or investigation that may be conducted by any outside or multi-agency entity having jurisdiction over the investigation or the evaluation of the use of force.

### 301.2 POLICY

The Easton Police Department will objectively evaluate the use of force by its members to ensure that their authority is used appropriately and consistent with training and policy.

### 301.3 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENT

Generally, whenever a member's actions or use of force in an official capacity, or while using department equipment, results in death or very serious injury to another, that member will be placed in a temporary administrative assignment by the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police may exercise discretion and choose not to place a member in an administrative assignment.

### 301.4 INVOLVED MEMBER'S COMMANDER

The involved member's commander shall review each use of force report to make one of the following recommended findings:

- (a) The member's actions were within department policy and procedure.
- (b) The member's actions were in violation of department policy and procedure.

The review shall be based upon those facts which were reasonably believed or known by the officer at the time of incident, applying any legal requirements, department policies, procedures and approved training to those facts. Facts later discovered but unknown to the involved member at the time shall neither justify nor call into question a member's decision regarding the use of force.

In the facts of the case are inadequate to reach a conclusion, the commander will confer with the Deputy Chief to determine who will be responsible for the investigation.

The commander may also recommend additional investigations or reviews, such as, training reviews to consider whether training should be developed or revised, policy reviews, or other issues as may be appropriate.

The commander will submit the written recommendation to the Deputy Chief of Police.

### 301.5 DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

The Deputy Chief shall review the commander's use of force recommendation and will make one of the following recommended findings:

# Easton Police Department

## Policy Manual

### *Use of Force Review*

---

- (a) The member's actions were within department policy and procedure
- (b) The member's actions were in violation of department policy and procedure

If use of force results in serious injury, death, or whenever death is imminent, the Deputy Chief will recommend to the Chief of Police to:

- (a) Place the member in a non-line administrative function
- (b) Refer the member to the appropriate psychological services caregiver

Maintains files of all reports involving the use of force and submits a report annually to the Chief of Police, summarizing the use of force during the previous calendar year.

Ensures the final disposition recommendations approved by the Chief of Police are implemented.

Dispositions directly affecting the involved member will be referred to the member's commander for implementation.

Other dispositions will be referred to the appropriate commander for implementation.

#### **301.5.1 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS**

At least annually, the Deputy Chief should prepare an analysis report on use of force incidents. The report should be submitted to the Chief of Police. The report should not contain the names of officers, suspects or case numbers, and should include:

- (a) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members
- (b) Training needs recommendations
- (c) Equipment needs recommendations
- (d) Policy revision recommendations

#### **301.6 CHIEF OF POLICE**

The Chief of Police shall review the recommendation, make a final determination as to whether the member's actions were within policy and procedure, and will determine whether any additional actions, investigations or reviews are appropriate. Those findings will be forwarded to the involved member's Commander for review and appropriate action. If the Chief of Police concludes that discipline should be considered, a disciplinary process will be initiated.