



# CARROLLTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"The mission of the Carrollton Police Department is to proactively protect our community while treating all we encounter with professionalism, dignity, and respect."*

Effective 07/25/2003, the Carrollton Police Department has established policies and procedures regarding the use of force by employees of the Carrollton Police Department. Employees use the level of force necessary to bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officer and others. Force is defined as any action intended to gain control of a person or defend oneself or another. This applies to both sworn officers and detention officers.

**Details:** The following force options are not listed in any particular order and additional options may be available:

- Deadly Force – any force intended or known by the actor to cause, or in the manner of its use or intended use, can cause death or serious bodily injury.
- General Force – force necessary to conduct normal law enforcement functions and/or affect the arrest, prevent the escape of, protect or overcome the resistance of a person being taken into custody. This includes but is not restricted to:
  - Professional Presence
  - Verbal Dialogue and Commands
  - Soft Empty Hand Control
  - Hard Empty Hand Control
- Less Lethal Force – force not intended to cause death or serious bodily injury and may include the following (not in any particular order):
  - Batons
  - Chemical Agents and Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)
  - Conducted Electronic Weapon (i.e. Taser)
  - Less Lethal Impact Munitions
  - K9

**Authorization to Use Force:** Employees receive formal training with a weapon or weapon system and must demonstrate proficiency or qualify with a weapon or weapon system in order to deploy the weapon or weapon system. Any officer licensed as a Texas Peace officer and commissioned through the Carrollton Police Department may only use weapons and ammunition approved or authorized by the Department while on-duty or armed in an off-duty capacity. Under dire circumstances, an employee may use any means necessary to defend themselves or another person.

**Justification for Use of Force:** The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. Therefore, officers are permitted to use the degree of force that is reasonably necessary to accomplish their lawful objectives.



Use of force should be based upon the totality of circumstances known by the officer at the time of the incident; factors to consider include:

- Severity of the offense suspected
- Does the suspect pose an imminent threat to the officer or others?
- Is the suspect actively resisting arrest or attempting escape?

**Justification for Deadly Force:** The Carrollton Police Department permits the use of deadly force only when:

- Officer reasonably believes that the officer or other persons are in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death
- Officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed a violent felony involving the infliction of threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death and by his or her escape poses a danger of serious bodily harm or death to others.

**Medical Aid:** Any use of force resulting in apparent injury or claimed injury, emergency medical aid should be summoned as soon as practical. Employees are trained that injuries may not be readily apparent and that medical evaluation into the person's physical status and observation are advisable.

**Reporting Use of Force:** Any employee that uses force against another person beyond cooperative control in the course of their duties is required to inform their supervisor without undue delay. This reporting includes:

- Use of force or action beyond cooperative control
- Discharge of a firearm in any manner while exercising any of the force options aforementioned
- Actions resulting in injury or death of another person
- Applied force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons including K9

All use of force reports are reviewed using the Use of Force Committee to determine the appropriateness of the use of force. Misuse of force will be handled through the disciplinary process by the employee's division commander unless an administrative investigation is deemed necessary.

