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## Use of Force Review Boards

### 301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a process for the Humboldt County Probation Department(HCPD) 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 HCPD 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 REMOVAL FROM LINE DUTY 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 pending an administrative review. The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee may exercise discretion and choose not to place a member in an administrative assignment.

### 301.4 REVIEW BOARD

The Use of Force Review Board will be convened when the use of force by a member results in very serious injury or death to another person.

The Use of Force Review Board will also investigate and review the circumstances surrounding every discharge of a firearm, whether the member was on- or off-duty, excluding training or recreational use.

The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee may request the Use of Force Review Board to investigate the circumstances surrounding any use of force incident.

The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee will convene the Use of Force Review Board as necessary. It will be the responsibility of the Division Director or supervisor of the involved member to notify the Chief Probation Officer of any incidents requiring board review. The involved member's Division Director or supervisor will also ensure that all relevant reports, documents, and materials are available for consideration and review by the board.

#### 301.4.1 COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee should staff the Use of Force Review Board with five individuals from the following, as appropriate:

- Assistant Chief Probation or the division director of the involved division
- Representatives of each division

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- Staff representative from the involved member's chain of command
- Training Manager
- Non--administrative supervisor
- A peer officer/department member
- Department instructor for the type of weapon, device, or technique used

#### 301.4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

The Use of Force Review Board is empowered to conduct an administrative review and inquiry into the circumstances of an incident.

The board members may request further investigation, request reports be submitted for the board's review, call persons to present information, and request the involved member to appear. The involved member will be notified of the meeting of the board and may choose to have a representative through all phases of the review process.

The board does not have the authority to recommend discipline.

The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee will determine whether the board should delay its review until after completion of any criminal investigation, review by any prosecutorial body, filing of criminal charges, the decision not to file criminal charges, or any other action. The board should be provided all relevant available material from these proceedings for its consideration.

Absent an express waiver from the involved member, no more than two designated board members may ask questions of the involved member. Other board members may provide questions to the designated board members.

The review shall be based on those facts that are reasonably believed or known by the officer at the time of the 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.

Any questioning of the involved member conducted by the board will be in accordance with HCPD disciplinary procedures, the Personnel Complaints Policy, the current memorandum of understanding, and any applicable state or federal law.

The board shall 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.

A recommended finding requires a majority vote of the board. The board may also recommend additional investigations or reviews, such as disciplinary investigations, training reviews to consider whether training should be developed or revised, and policy reviews, as may be

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appropriate. The board chairperson will submit the written recommendation to the Chief Probation Officer.

The Chief Probation Officer shall review the recommendation, make a final determination as to whether the member's actions were within policy and procedure, and determine whether any additional actions, investigations, or reviews are appropriate. If the Chief Probation Officer concludes that discipline should be considered, a disciplinary process will be initiated.

At the conclusion of any additional reviews, copies of all relevant reports and information will be filed with the Chief Probation Officer.