

## DCSO Authorization for Use of Force Policy

### II. Authorization for Use of Force

- A. Members will use only the reasonable amount of force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives and apply de-escalation techniques when possible. (4.1.1)
  - 1. A suspect does not have to be the first to exercise force or gain an advantage in a confrontation in order for force to be justifiable.
  - 2. Nothing in this policy should be interpreted to mean that a member is required to engage in hands on techniques before resorting to that method and type of force that will most safely, effectively, and humanely bring a suspect under physical control.
  - 3. Members actively engaged in the application of force must ensure that the use of force does not continue beyond the point that is objectively reasonable (see the definition for “Objectively Reasonable Force” in the definition section above). Members, and Supervisors who are present, will continually reassess the situation and ensure the level of force used is objectively reasonable.
- F. Deputies
  - 2. Deadly Force in Defense of Life (4.1.2)
    - a. Deputies may utilize deadly force when the Deputy reasonably believes the action is in defense of any human life in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. (1.2.2)
    - b. Before utilizing a firearm or other deadly force in defense of self or others, Deputies will attempt to give loud verbal warnings/commands if possible. Due to the complexity of deadly force confrontations, the ability to give verbal commands may not be feasible in all situations.
- G. DCSO members involved in a use of force that results in death or serious bodily injury will render aid and notify their Supervisor(s) (this includes on and off-duty incidents). Members will adhere to the procedures in the DCSO “Deputy-Involved Incident Investigations” policy during such incidents.
- H. DCSO members will ensure appropriate medical aid is provided as quickly as reasonably possible following any use of force in which injuries have been sustained, to include calling a rescue squad as appropriate in accordance with the DCSO “Medical Aid and Hospital Procedures” policy. (4.1.5)