



SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE GENERAL ORDERS	
DATE: 12/11/2020	GENERAL ORDER #143
SUBJECT: Force De-Escalation	
AUTHORIZATION: SHERIFF WILLIAM E. YESSMAN	

OBJECTIVE: IT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS GENERAL ORDER TO APPLY FORCE DE-ESCALATION TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES BY DEPUTIES TO AVOID PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS, UNLESS IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY TO PROTECT SOMEONE OR THEMSELVES, OR TO STOP DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR, WHILE MINIMIZING THE NEED TO USE FORCE DURING AN INCIDENT WHEN THE TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIME PERMIT. DE-ESCALATION TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES ARE EMPLOYED TO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE AND COOPERATION.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office that when all of the reasonably known circumstances indicate it is safe, prudent, and feasible to do so, a Deputy will attempt to slow down, reduce the intensity, or stabilize the situation so that more time, options and/or resources may become available for incident resolution.

I. Procedures

A. When time and circumstances reasonably permit, a Deputy shall consider whether a subject's lack of compliance is a deliberate attempt to resist or is the result of an inability to comply based on factors including, but not limited to:

1. Medical Conditions
2. Mental Impairment
3. Developmental Disability
4. Physical Limitations
5. language Barrier
6. Drug Interaction

7. Behavioral Crisis

- B. A Deputy's awareness of these possibilities, when time and circumstances reasonably permit, shall then be balanced against the facts of the incident and which tactical options are the most appropriate to bring the situation to a safe resolution.
 - 1. A Deputy is not expected to engage in force de-escalation tactics or techniques that could jeopardize the safety of the community or of the Deputy.
- C. Where circumstances and time reasonably permit, a Deputy shall take those reasonable and prudent actions which operate to mitigate the immediacy of the threat thereby giving the Deputy time to call more officers, utilize other tactics, or request specialty assistance, such as Crisis Negotiators.
- D. The number of law enforcement officers on scene may increase the available force options, a circumstance which has the potential to increase the ability of the Deputy to reduce the overall force used by promoting consideration of other viable alternatives such as:
 - 1. Decreasing the exposure to the potential threat by using distance or physical barriers between an uncooperative subject and officer.
 - 2. Containing the threat.
 - 3. Maximizing the use of cover or concealment to reduce officer(s) exposure to potential threats by placing the officer(s) in a safer position.
 - 4. Communicating from a safe position to gain the subject's compliance through the use of verbal persuasion, advisements, and/or warnings. Generally, communication techniques should engage active listening to calm agitated individuals and promote rational decision-making.
- E. When circumstances warrant an application of force, the level of force applied must reflect the totality of the reasonably known circumstances surrounding the immediate situation. The Deputy need only select a level of force that is within the range of "objectively reasonable" options.
- F. Deputies will escalate or de-escalate the use of force as the situation progresses or as circumstances change. When the suspect is under control, either through the application of physical restraint or the suspect's compliance, the degree of force shall be de-escalated accordingly. A

Deputy has the duty to intercede when observing unreasonable or unnecessary force being applied to a given situation.