

Lansing Community College Police Department
General Order

GO #: 9.1

Response to Aggression

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Response to Aggression

POLICY:

The policy of the LCC PD is to employ the amount of force that is objectively reasonable to overcome the resistance or aggression offered in order to effect a lawful arrest and/or accomplish the lawful performance of duty in protecting the public. The Department recognizes and respects the sanctity of each human life and recognizes that the use of excessive force only erodes public confidence and support that is essential to our ability to serve the public.

The use of non-lethal force is intended primarily for the uses described in GO 9.4 involving unarmed resistive or aggressive subjects.

Attacks by armed assailants may result in the officer employing a higher degree of force, up to and including deadly force, as described in GO 9.2.

The decision to use force must be justified in the light of these General Orders and the law, both state and federal. These General Orders, in combination with training and experience, provide the foundation for our officers to make proper decisions in moments of crisis. When a violent felon acts out to cause harm, our officers should have no hesitancy in using that force which is necessary to bring the person under control.

The use of unreasonable, unnecessary or excessive force and/or the failure to provide proper medical treatment whenever possible following the use of force shall in every case result in certain disciplinary action against those who use or allow the use of such force or fail to provide for the care of persons in custody.

Actions taken in response to resistance and/or aggression will not be punitive or retaliatory.

LCC PD officers observing any other officer (regardless of agency) using excessive force have an obligation to intercede in order so they can make all reasonable efforts to stop the use of excessive force. LCC PD officers are to report such an occurrence to the Command Officer as soon as possible and will complete an Incident Report documenting the excessive use of force and their efforts to intercede.

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MCOLES SUBJECT CONTROL CONTINUUM:

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards publishes a Subject Control Continuum as a training guide for officers. This Continuum is utilized by LCC PD in the training of its officers and the creation of training documentation, including these General Orders. A copy of the 2008 version of the MCOLES Subject Control Continuum is contained as an attachment in this General Order Book.

The following terms are defined in the Subject Control Continuum and are used as defined in this General Order Book.

- a. **Inactive Resistance:** Resistance that may include psychological intimidation and/or verbal resistance. (e.g., blank stare, clenching of fist(s), tightening of jaw muscles, etc.).
- b. **Passive Resistance:** Any type of resistance whereby the subject does not attempt to defeat the officer's attempt to touch and control the subject, but still will not voluntarily comply with verbal and physical attempts of control. (e.g., dead weight, failure to comply with verbal commands, etc.).
- c. **Active Resistance:** Any action by a subject that attempts to prevent an officer from gaining control of the subject. (e.g., pulling/pushing away, blocking, etc.).
- d. **Active Aggression:** Physical actions/assaults against the officer or another person with less than deadly force (e.g., advancing, challenging, punching, kicking, grabbing, wrestling, etc.).
- e. **Deadly Force Assault:** Any force used against an officer or another person that may result in great bodily harm or the loss of human life.
- f. **Officer Presence/Verbal Direction:** Identification of Authority (e.g., uniformed presence or identification as a police officer), Verbal Direction (e.g., for arrest or to control subject's movements), Use of Restraint Devices (e.g., compliant handcuffing).
- g. **Compliance Controls:** Soft Empty Hand Techniques (e.g., joint lock, pressure points, etc.), Compliance Control Devices (e.g., Do-Rite, baton, Kubotan, PR-24, etc.).

- h. Physical Controls: Hard Empty Hand Techniques (e.g., strikes, take downs, etc.).
- i. Intermediate Controls: Intermediate Weapons (e.g., impact weapons).
- j. Deadly Force Response: Any force used by an officer that has a reasonable probability to cause death.

Totality of Circumstances: The question is whether the officer’s actions are “objectively reasonable” in light of all the facts and circumstances confronting the officer at the time the force is used.

Circumstantial Considerations: (List is not all inclusive) Type of crime committed or attempted; relative size/stature of subject(s); exigent conditions: number of officers on scene, number of subjects involved, and availability of back-up; reaction time; relative strength; subject(s) access to weapons; subject(s) under the influence of alcohol or drugs; exceptional abilities/skills of suspect(s) (e.g., martial arts); injury to, or exhaustion of, the officer; weather or terrain conditions; immediacy of danger; distance from the subject; special knowledge (e.g., subject’s prior history of violence); etc.

Last Resort: Situations may occur where immediate and drastic measures must be undertaken by an officer to protect human life. Force used in these life threatening situations may involve the use of tactics, techniques or weapons not specifically authorized by policy (e.g., neck restraint, striking with flash light, etc.).

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