

Abington Township Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter:	Law Enforcement Role and Authority	General Order:	1.3.2
Section:	Use of Force	Original Date:	040104
Title:	Use of Deadly Force	Re-Issue Date:	020818
Issued By:	Patrick Molloy, Chief of Police	Reevaluation Date:	122021
Signature:	<i>Patrick Molloy</i>	Expiration Date:	Indefinite
Replaces:	All Previous General Orders Relative to Subject		
Distribution:	All Sworn Members	Total Pages:	2
CALEA Standard References:	1.3.2		
Pennsylvania Accreditation References:	1.3.2		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to provide members with guidelines on the use of deadly force.

II. POLICY

See General Order: 1.3.1 - Policy Statement

III. DEFINITION

- A. Deadly Force - force which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.
- B. Reasonable Belief - facts or circumstances that would cause an ordinary and prudent person to act or think in a similar way under similar circumstances.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Parameters for use of deadly force:
 - 1. When it is necessary for an Abington Township police officer to discharge a firearm, the officer shall exercise the utmost caution so as to avoid endangering innocent persons.
 - 2. There are three instances in which a police officer may discharge a firearm at another human being:

- a. When the officer reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself.
 - b. When the officer reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to another person.
 - c. When the officer believes that no other alternative exists to effect the arrest, to prevent the person fleeing from arrest or police custody, **and** when the officer has probable cause or reasonably believes that:
 - (1) the person fleeing possesses a deadly weapon which he/she has used or indicates he/she is about to use, or
 - (2) the person fleeing has indicated that he/she will endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury unless arrested without delay.
3. If feasible, an officer should identify him/herself and give some warning before discharging a firearm in any of the above instances.