

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
MANUAL OF GENERAL ORDERS**

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OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: USE OF FORCE CASES

The Office of Professional Standards will institute procedures to assure proper reporting, investigation, and review of use of force and injury to prisoner cases.

A. **Investigation and Classification of Cases** – All injury, complaint of injury, and force type cases will be investigated and classified as one of the following, and documented via a prisoner incident investigation through Blue Team or for Pre-Existing Injuries an entry into P1 and a medical release form completed.

1. **Use of Force** – **Any** action, beyond that of simply controlling a subject, as defined in General Order [27.01 Use of Force: General Guidelines](#) B.2, while the officer is in the process of making or assisting with an arrest or detention.
2. **Pre-Existing Injury** – **Any** bodily injury or complaint of bodily injury, that existed prior to contact with a member of the Department, whether the individual has received medical treatment or not. An example would be a member arresting an individual after a crash or domestic incident and observing bodily injuries. When an arrestee is deemed to have a pre-existing injury the incident can be documented by any officer. In the event an officer conducts the investigation, the interview shall be witnessed by another member of the Department to verify the individual’s acknowledgement the injury occurred prior to police contact. The name of the member who witnessed the interview shall be documented in the investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation the investigating officer shall make contact with the on-duty supervisor to advise them of the results of the investigation. If a member learns during the course of their investigation that the arrestee claims force was used, or suspects that an injury is not pre-existing, they will immediately notify a supervisor.
3. **Accidental Injury** – **Any** unintentional bodily injury or complaint of bodily injury to an individual that occurred after contact with a member of the Department. An example would be a handcuffed prisoner slipping and falling.
4. **Self-Inflicted Injury** – **Any** bodily injury or complaint of bodily injury, to an individual that is caused solely by the actions of the individual in police custody, without any member involvement. An example would be a handcuffed prisoner twisting their hands causing injury to their wrists.

B. Review of Use of Force – Office of Professional Standards will review all reports of use of force.

1. **Thoroughness** – The review will try to assure that the case has been properly investigated and documented. In some cases, there may be a need for the investigating supervisor or member to make further inquiry or statements prior to the case being ruled on by the Chief of Police for final disposition.
2. **Justification** – The case will be reviewed from the legal perspective to determine that only legally justified force has been used. Each incident of use of force will be ruled as justified or not justified.