

# Where we Stand

## University of Richmond Police Department



Key Elements of URPD  
Use of Force Policy



## Use of Force, Generally

Officers shall use the standard of objectively reasonable when confronted with use of force situations. De-escalation actions shall be implemented whenever applicable. Based upon the circumstances of the situation, only that force which is reasonable and necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, while preventing injury and protecting the life of the officer and/or others, shall be applied.

### Accreditation

The University of Richmond Police Department is presently one of only a handful of private institutions in the country that has a full-service law enforcement agency accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. URPD is the first private institution and is currently the longest running university law enforcement agency to be accredited by CALEA and shares the distinction of being CALEA accredited with more than 600 municipal, state and institutional police agencies nationwide.



Sanctity of life and respect for all persons is exemplified in our use of force training through formal de-escalation training (PERF) and a restricted pursuit policy.

The current urgent need for change requires thoughtful action and an acknowledgment of positive training programs in place and understanding that a very narrow portion of our society is intent on causing harm to others.

Dave McCoy

### Department Focus Points

*Community Policing* – Officers should be extremely knowledgeable about their assigned areas so that they can use an analytical/problem solving approach to everything they do.

*Professionalism* – Officers must be able to maintain a high level of professionalism and integrity in all of their encounters. We hold ourselves to the highest standards.

*Creativity*- Constant reinvention of ourselves and the willingness to advance a concept or idea that will move Public Safety forward.

*Fairness*- Treat every individual in a manner that reflects how we wish to be treated.

*Focus*- Provide professional development of each Department employee with the intent to provide for a safe environment that fosters student success.



## What is required

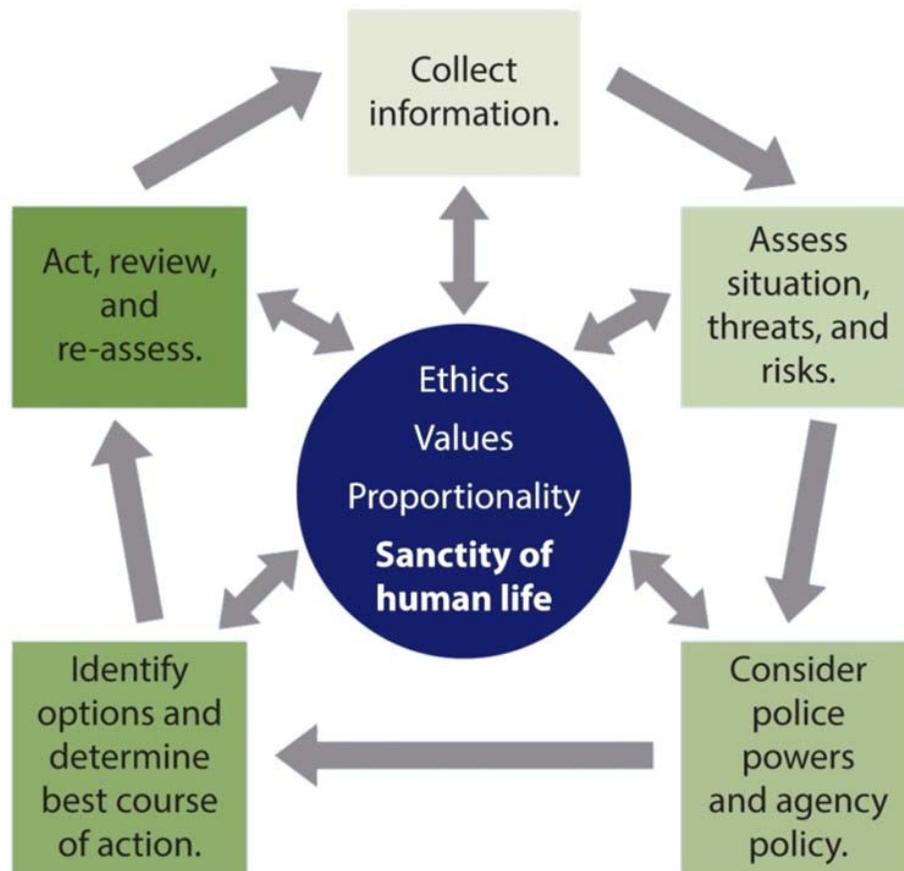
- **De-escalation**-Provided there is not immediate threat to life, officers are required to take action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary.
- **Reporting**—The University of Richmond Police Department considers any use of deadly force, less-lethal force (baton, pepper spray), gun points (pointing or displaying a gun at an individual to gain compliance), or physical force, with the exception of control techniques (handcuffing), a use of force and those actions require a formal use of force report to be forwarded to the Chief of Police. Additionally, any action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, the injury or death of another person requires a use of force report.
- **Intervention**-All officers, regardless of rank, have a duty to intervene and stop, or modify, another officer's use of force when the officer's use of force is unreasonable, and/or not in compliance with department policy and training. Additionally, all officers, regardless of rank, have a duty to report to their immediate supervisor an observed or reported use of force not in compliance with department policy or training.
- **Medical Aid**-Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, an officer shall provide appropriate medical care consistent with his/her training to any individual who has visible injury, complaints of being injured, or requests medical attention

## What is Prohibited

- **Excessive Force**-Officers shall use force only when no reasonably effective alternative appears to exist and shall use only the level of force, which an objectively reasonable officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.
- **Shooting at or from Vehicles**-Officers are prohibited from shooting at or from moving vehicles, with very few exceptions when exigent circumstances exist.
- **Physical Maneuvers**-The following are prohibited unless deadly force is justified:
  1. Gouges to the eyes.
  2. Hard strikes to the temple.
  3. Hard strikes to the throat.
  4. Hard strikes to the spine.
  5. Upward strikes to the nose.
  6. Choke holds and vascular neck constraints—or shunting of blood or breaththrough the neck.
  7. Upward strike or kick to the groin.
  8. Violent twisting of the head or neck.

## Determining Use of Force

The University of Richmond Police Department does not employ a Use of Force Continuum. When the URPD implemented Integrating Communications, Assessments and Tactics (ICAT) and De-escalation training, the department transitioned to The Critical Decision Making Model as presented by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). This model requires officers to continuously assess and act according to the needs of the situation and department policy.



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### Resources:

[URPD Statistical Arrest, Traffic Stops and Use of Force Information](#)  
[Police Department Website](#)