

Policy 300

Use of Force

300.1 SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Berkeley Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the life, dignity, and liberty of all persons. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to protect and serve. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force, whenever feasible. Officers must respect the sanctity of all human life, act in all possible respects to preserve human life, do everything possible to avoid unnecessary uses of force, and minimize the force that is used, while still protecting themselves and the public.

Commented [KL1]: 1st 3 sentences from Perezvelez.

Commented [KL2]: Last sentence from Camden "Purpose" section.

300.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines on the use of force. Every member of this Department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions on the use of force in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner.

Commented [KL3]: BPD Draft Policy 300 language, revised

300.3 [To contain standards; statement about proportionality]