



Police Department



Message to our Community

It is the fundamental mission of the South Milwaukee Police Department to serve the community and safeguard life and property through fair and impartial policing that respects the rights of all people to have liberty, equality and justice. We adhere to a set of standards designed to ensure that all citizens are treated with dignity and we hold ourselves accountable for our actions. Like you, our members were appalled by the actions of the officers in Minneapolis that led to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and we condemn those actions. The events of the past two weeks have brought up many questions about law enforcement supervision, training and tactics so we are making available some important information regarding the training and standards we follow on the South Milwaukee Police Department.

WISCONSIN TRAINING AND STANDARDS FOR OFFICERS:

Wisconsin is one of the top training states in the United States. Wisconsin is a model of the highest practices and standards in the country.

All South Milwaukee Police Officers have been trained by Wisconsin standards and the South Milwaukee Police Department's General Orders are consistent with State Law.

Key points

- Law enforcement training in Wisconsin currently includes instruction in cultural competency and de-escalation tactics.
- Regarding use-of-force, Wisconsin law enforcement officers are taught any use-of-force must be objectively reasonable. Wisconsin does not teach any type of chokehold as a compliance alternative.

WISCONSIN LAW REGARDING OFFICERS USE OF FORCE:

Key Points

- There have been major improvements in WI over the years specific to the development of law governing officer conduct, the use-of-force, and officer involved deaths in the State.
- Currently, the State of Wisconsin Statutes already requires 11 mandatory policies that every law enforcement agency including requirements specific to use-of-force and officer involved death investigations.
- In 2014, Wisconsin became the first state in the country to enact a law requiring outside investigations when there is an officer-involved death.
- These separate, independent investigations yield the highest standard of transparency for all parties involved and the public.

Additional Background Information

Below are the specific statutes on the use-of-force and officer involved death investigations.



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- Those two policies are:
- Use-of-Force: 66.0511(2) "Each person in charge of a law enforcement agency shall prepare in writing and make available for public scrutiny a policy or standard regulating the use-of-force by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties."
- Officer-Involved Death: 175.47 "Each law enforcement agency shall have a written policy regarding the investigation of officer-involved deaths that involve a law enforcement officer employed by the law enforcement agency." This statute also requires outside investigators to conduct any officer-involved death incidents.

The below are Wisconsin State Laws mandating how officer-involved death investigation shall be conducted:

- 175.47(3)(a) "Each policy under sub. (2) must require an investigation conducted by at least 2 investigators, one of whom is the lead investigator and neither of whom is employed by a law enforcement agency that employs a law enforcement officer involved in the officer-involved death."
- 175.47(3)(b) If the officer-involved death being investigated is traffic-related, the policy under sub. (2) must require the investigation to use a crash reconstruction unit from a law enforcement agency that does not employ a law enforcement officer involved in the officer-involved death being investigated, except that a policy for a state law enforcement agency may allow an investigation involving a law enforcement officer employed by that state law enforcement agency to use a crash reconstruction unit from the same state law enforcement agency.
- 175.47(3)(c) Each policy under sub. (2) may allow an internal investigation into the officer-involved death if the internal investigation does not interfere with the investigation conducted under par. (a).
- 175.47(5)(a) The investigators conducting the investigation under sub. (3) (a) shall, in an expeditious manner, provide a complete report to the district attorney of the county in which the officer-involved death occurred.
- 175.47(5)(b) If the district attorney determines there is no basis to prosecute the law enforcement officer involved in the officer-involved death, the investigators conducting the investigation under sub. (3) (a) shall release the report, except that the investigators shall, before releasing the report, delete any information that would not be subject to disclosure pursuant to a request under s. 19.35 (1) (a).

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS BUREAU USE-OF-FORCE TRAINING:

Key Points

- In Wisconsin, the 720-hour academy is conducted at technical colleges throughout the State of Wisconsin and taught by instructors that are both current and former law enforcement



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officers and other subject matter experts in the numerous disciplines officers will encounter while in the field.

- The State of Wisconsin 720-hour academy has a three-phase system in place regarding the basic training of police officers; Phase #1 deals with Introduction and Non-emergency responses, Phase #2 deals with Emergency Responses, and phase #3 deals with Investigations. After the academy students participate in 12 hours of integration exercises incorporating all three phases of the basic police academy.
- To successfully graduate, students, for the last week of the academy and besides the written examinations, must participate in 40 hours of scenario-based evaluations whereby students are thrust into a differing situation they will encounter with role players. This evaluation helps instructors ensure that these recruits can successfully problem solve and with varying problems, including use-of-force situations, successfully demonstrate the requisite skills to be a police officer.
- As part of a law enforcement officer's 720-hour basic training, an officer is trained in the following areas:
 - Critical Thinking and Decision Making - 8 hours
 - Cultural Competence - 8 hours
 - Ethics/Individual Character, Values and Ethics - 4 hours
 - Ethics II/Moral Reasoning and Professional Conduct - 4 hours
 - Traffic Law Enforcement and Racial Sensitivity Training - Part of 12-hour block
 - Within Traffic Law Block - Definition of Bias Based Policing and Selective Traffic Enforcement - students are required to identify 4 differences between Bias Based Policing and Selective Traffic Enforcement - Part of 12-hour block
 - While Wisconsin is a national leader for law enforcement training and standards, there is always room for improvement.

STATE OF WISCONSIN USE-OF-FORCE TRAINING POLICY WITHIN THE DEFENSE AND ARREST TACTICS (DAAT) MODEL UTILIZED IN WISCONSIN:

Key Points

- Wisconsin does NOT teach, as part of Use-of-Force any type of chokehold as a compliance alternative.
- Use-of-Force training is an important tool to keep our officers and citizens safe. Every officer in Wisconsin is trained the same way as required by the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB).
- Under current law, the Wisconsin LESB sets standards for recruitment, education, and training for law enforcement. LESB also can certify and decertify law enforcement, tribal law enforcement, jail, or juvenile detention officers.



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- LESB is an important regulatory body for law enforcement, ensuring minimum standards and developing valuable curriculum.
- Wisconsin has utilized best practices and followed the Defense and Arrest Tactics system training since the late 1980s. As training has evolved, so too has the Defense and Arrest Tactics training. Dealing with Medically Significant Behavior would be one example of that.
- An extensive amount of time with recruit officers is spent with Crisis Management (20 hours) and dealing with people with mental health issues as well as people who may suffer from addictions such as alcohol or drugs, and how to recognize and properly respond to those types of behaviors exhibited.
- Officers also undergo numerous specialized trainings after being in the field and participate in specific local training on diversionary services.

LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FORCE DICTATED BY:

1. The United States Constitution
2. Wisconsin State Statutes
3. The agencies policies regarding the use-of-force
4. The training the officer has received