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DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

**86 Dover Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824
(603)868-2324**

POLICY #: 1.3.2.2

SUBJECT: Use of Force, When Force Must Cease

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Durham Police Department, and as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- An officer has a duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of excessive force by another officer.
- All uses of force shall be documented and investigated pursuant to this agency's policies.
- An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his or her training whenever possible and appropriate to reduce the need for force.
- Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.

WHEN FORCE MUST CEASE

- Any force used under the examples found elsewhere in the manual must be both reasonable and necessary. As soon as resistance has ceased and the person is in secure custody, the use of force must cease.
- Force shall never be used to "punish" a prisoner for resisting, or as a response to verbal insults, and may only be used to [accomplish lawful objectives](#).