



LAW ENFORCEMENT RISK ANALYSIS



USE OF FORCE POLICY ADDENDUM C CRITICAL AGENCY CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND TACTICAL TEAMS

The New Jersey Attorney General Directive, 2020-13, entitled *Directive Revising Use of Force Policy and Procedures*, was issued on December 21, 2020. The directive stated, "The new use of force policy sets standards that go beyond the minimum constitutional requirements set forth in Graham."¹ Law enforcement agencies were given a year to prepare for this significant change concerning the use of force in New Jersey, as the new policy's effective date was December 31, 2021. In response to the directive, a Law Enforcement Risk Analysis was developed and issued in January 2021, which highlighted essential risk mitigation strategies, including developing new training methods and reviewing and revising agency policies, as necessary.

There have been numerous revisions to the New Jersey Use of Force Policy since the initial directive was issued in December 2020, and all of the revisions reinforced the New Jersey Attorney General's commitment to the established seven core principles.

On August 22, 2024, the New Jersey Attorney General issued directive 2024-04, revising the statewide use of force policy to incorporate an addendum addressing law enforcement responses to barricaded individuals. This policy also reinforced the fundamental principles of the sanctity of human life, force as a last resort, and utilizing all available de-escalation tactics. This directive also stated "That New Jersey's use of force policy imposes limitations on law enforcement agencies and officials that may be more restrictive than limitations imposed under the United States and New Jersey constitutions and federal and state statutes and regulations"²

Today's law enforcement leaders must develop and deliver the most appropriate training programs and implement up-to-date, effective policies that align with the standards embedded in the New Jersey Use of Force Policy. Use of force training programs that were acceptable not long ago are no longer sufficient to ensure that officers understand the key terms and required actions that they must take to protect the life and liberty of others and their own. Law enforcement leaders must thoroughly examine the latest New Jersey Use of Force Policy and related resources and continually evaluate their training programs to determine what steps they should take to ensure their personnel understand these highly critical directives.

Law enforcement leaders must understand that New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2024-04, Addendum C, provides critical governance to everyday patrol officers, not just tactical teams. Furthermore, Addendum C details many critical considerations for first-arriving officers when responding to mental health calls for service that can become a barricaded incident. The 2021 Risk Analysis has been updated. It also now includes a section focused on Addendum C to assist agencies in identifying risks and providing mitigation strategies to ensure agencies adequately train their officers, modify appropriate policies, and continually assess the rapidly changing law enforcement environment to identify and mitigate risks.

The updated Law Enforcement Risk Analysis can be viewed [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your law enforcement risk control consultant.

¹Grewal, G. N. (2020, December 21). Directive Revising Use of Force Policy and Procedures. Trenton, N.J.

²Platkin, M. J. (2024, August 22). Directive Revising the Statewide Use of Force Policy to Incorporate an Addendum Addressing Law Enforcement Responses to Barricaded Individuals. Trenton, N.J.