



# Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Number:  
5-300

## Volume Five – Code of Conduct and Use of Force

### Use of Force

#### 5-304

#### **Authorized and Prohibited Force Options**

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#### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that members' use of force control options adheres to the force guiding principles described in P&P 5-301. The force guiding principles include, but are not limited to, the Sanctity of Life (as incorporated below), the Duty to De-escalate, and Objectively Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional Force.

- A. MPD and its members shall uphold the sanctity of life (P&P 0-102 and P&P 5-301) by striving to protect and preserve human life in all situations and keep the community and MPD members safe from harm.
- B. The MPD recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed or otherwise violent subjects may cause handling and control problems that require special training and equipment.
- C. This policy provides definitions, authorizations, restrictions and prohibitions that apply to authorized and improvised use of force options.

#### **II. Policy**

##### **A. Authorized Force Options and Improvised Force Options**

All uses of force shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements in P&P 5-301.

1. Members shall only carry weapons and force devices and use weapons and force devices approved by MPD for which they are currently trained and authorized to use through the MPD Training Division, except in exigent circumstances.
  - a. An authorized device is a device a member has received permission from the MPD to carry and use in the discharge of that member's duties, and for which the member has:
    - i. Completed the required training in the technical, mechanical and physical aspects of the device.

and

- ii. Developed a knowledge and understanding of the MPD policy, law, rules and regulations regarding the use of such a device.
2. MPD Training provides the foundation for decision-making and the use of force. While this training is as comprehensive as possible, it is recognized that not all situations are linear, and that in rare circumstances it may be reasonably necessary for use of force to deviate from trained techniques.
  - a. Members shall only use improvised weapons when they lack an approved intermediate weapon as an alternative. In the event that a member's use of force incorporates improvised weapons or techniques, the member shall still adhere to the force guiding principles and ensure their actions are objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional (P&P 5-301).
3. Using empty hand techniques, a vehicle, intermediate weapon, or other improvised weapon may constitute the use of deadly force, depending on how the weapon or technique is used.

## **B. Carry Intermediate Weapons**

1. While on-duty or while engaged in off-duty work, members wearing the Class 'C' uniform (P&P 3-114) who are carrying a firearm shall carry on their person the hand-held chemical aerosol (P&P 5-308), and either the CEW (when issued- see P&P 5-308) or the baton (P&P 5-310).
2. While on-duty or while engaged in off-duty work, members in modified uniforms, plainclothes, or civilian attire, whose duties routinely involve conducting enforcement activities and who are carrying a firearm, shall carry on their person at least one intermediate weapon.

## **C. Limitations and Prohibitions**

### **1. Prone positioning**

In accordance with P&P 7-350, members shall not secure a person in any way that results in transporting the person face down in a vehicle. See P&P 7-350 for other conditions around prone positioning.

### **2. Prohibition on neck restraints and choke holds**

Neck restraints and choke holds are prohibited. Instructors are prohibited from teaching the use of neck restraints or choke holds.

### 3. Prohibition on hogties

Hogtying a subject is prohibited.

- A hogtie involves tying the feet of the subject directly to their hands behind their back.

### 4. Prohibition on the Maximal Restraint Technique (MRT)

The Maximal Restraint Technique (MRT) and the Hobble Restraint Device (and related devices) are prohibited.

- The Maximal Restraint Technique (MRT) is a technique used to secure a subject's feet to their waist, through the Hobble Restraint Device or other related devices.

## III. Definitions

**Carry Weapons and Force Devices:** Having a weapon or force device on one's person. This includes having it in a pocket, holster, or backpack or similar container, as well as having it slung or having it in hand.

**Choke Hold:** A method by which a person applies sufficient pressure to a person to make breathing difficult or impossible, including but not limited to any pressure to the neck, throat, or windpipe that may prevent or hinder breathing, or reduce intake of air. A choke hold also means applying pressure to a person's neck on either side of the windpipe, but not to the windpipe itself, to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries. (MN Statute section 609.06 Subd. 3 (b))

**Intermediate Weapon:** Weapons that are not intended to cause death or serious physical injury and are not empty hand techniques. These include CEWs, chemical aerosols, chemical munitions, impact projectiles, and batons.

**Pointing a Weapon:** Directing a weapon towards a subject, with the intent to use or imply the use of the weapon.

**Use Weapons and Force Devices:** Activating or applying any of a weapon or force device's mechanical functions, pointing a weapon, or making contact with a subject with the weapon or force device. This includes discharging a weapon such as a firearm, chemical aerosol, or impact projectile launcher, deploying a CEW, performing a CEW warning alert, activating a CEW, laser painting a subject, applying handcuffs or restraints, and making bodily contact with a subject with a baton or other impact weapon.

**Using Empty Hand Techniques:** Using force that employs the member's own body as the mechanism of force (also called bodily force).