



Standards Every Law Enforcement Agency Should Have

As a rule, in order to meet some minimum standards of policing, every police department should have a policy on the following:

- 1) Use of Force – stating when and how force may be used by police officers
- 2) Racial Profiling – a ban on racial profiling and data collection measures to ensure it is not happening within the agency
- 3) Citizen Complaint Procedure – a method for members of the community to file a complaint regarding an officer or an incident involving the law enforcement agency
- 4) Drawing and Displaying Firearms – stating when and how firearms can be used and displayed by officers
- 5) Vehicular Pursuits – stating when and how officers should engage in vehicular pursuits
- 6) Fleeing Felons – stating how officer will engage with felons who are fleeing
- 7) Foot Pursuits – stating when and how officers may engage in foot pursuits
- 8) Internal Review – stating the procedures of the agency’s internal review mechanisms
- 9) Shooting at/from a Motor Vehicle – stating when and how officers may shoot from a motor vehicle
- 10) Use of Impact, Edged, and Other Similar Weapons – stating when and how these weapons may be used

- 11) Crisis Intervention Training and Response – stating how officers should handle crisis situations (e.g. involving the mentally disturbed, hostage situations, etc.)
- 12) Investigation Procedures – detailing procedures for investigating incidents
- 13) Canine Use – stating when and how police canine should be used
- 14) Evidence Preservation and Presentation – detailing how evidence is preserved and presented to investigators (internal and external)
- 15) Use of Tasers – stating when and how a taser device may be used

NOTE: Although the NAACP has a resolution calling for a ban on taser devices, many departments still use them and, in the absence of a ban, it is important to have a concise policy and training on when and how these devices should be used.