

Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

305.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policy and procedures for the investigation of an incident in which a person is injured as the result of an officer-involved shooting or dies as a result of other action of a deputy.

In other incidents not covered by this policy, the Marshal may decide that the investigation will follow the process provided in this policy.

305.2 POLICY

The policy of the CCMO is to ensure that officer-involved shootings and deaths are investigated in a thorough, fair and impartial manner, to include whether or not they followed federal and state law, as well as, department policy.

305.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Officer-involved shootings involve several separate investigations. The investigations may include:

- (a) A criminal investigation of the suspect's actions.
- (b) A criminal investigation of the involved officer's actions.
- (c) An administrative investigation as to policy compliance by involved deputies.

305.4 CONTROL OF INVESTIGATIONS

Investigators from surrounding agencies shall be assigned to work on the criminal investigation of officer-involved shootings and deaths. This may include at least one investigator from the agency that employs the involved officer.

Jurisdiction is determined by the location of the shooting or death and the agency employing the involved officer. The following scenarios outline the jurisdictional responsibilities for investigating officer-involved shootings and deaths.

305.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT ACTIONS

The investigation of any possible criminal conduct by the suspect is controlled by the agency in whose jurisdiction the suspect's crime occurred. For example, the CCMO would control the investigation if the suspect's crime occurred in Colorado City or Hildale.

If multiple crimes have been committed in multiple jurisdictions, identification of the agency that will control the investigation may be reached in the same way as with any other crime. The investigation may be conducted by the agency in control of the criminal investigation of the involved officer, at the discretion of the Marshal and with concurrence from the other agency.

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305.4.2 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER ACTIONS

The control of the criminal investigation into the involved deputy's conduct during the incident will be determined by the following sections of this policy. When a deputy from this office is involved, the criminal investigation will be handled according to the Criminal Investigation section of this policy.

Requests made of this office to investigate a shooting or death involving an outside agency's officer shall be referred to the Marshal for approval.

305.4.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL INVESTIGATION

Regardless of where the incident occurs, the administrative and civil investigation of each involved officer is controlled by the respective employing agency.

305.5 THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS

The following procedures are guidelines used in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting or death:

305.5.1 UNINVOLVED DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene of an officer-involved shooting or death, the first uninvolved CCMO deputy will be the deputy-in-charge and will assume the responsibilities of a supervisor until properly relieved. This deputy should, as appropriate:

- (a) Secure the scene and identify and eliminate hazards for all those involved.
- (b) Obtain emergency medical attention for injured individuals.
- (c) Request additional resources from the Office or other agencies.
- (d) Coordinate a perimeter or pursuit of suspects.
- (e) Check for injured persons and evacuate as needed.
- (f) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

305.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor shall be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the incident until he/she is relieved by the Marshal or his designee.

Upon arrival at the scene, the first uninvolved CCMO supervisor should ensure completion of the duties as outlined above, plus:

- (a) Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.
 1. In the event that there are no uninvolved officers who can supply adequate overview, the supervisor should attempt to obtain a brief voluntary overview from one involved officer.
- (b) If necessary, the supervisor may administratively order any CCMO deputy to immediately provide public safety information necessary to secure the scene, identify injured parties and pursue suspects.

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1. Public safety information shall be limited to such things as outstanding suspect information, number and direction of any shots fired, perimeter of the incident scene, identity of known or potential witnesses and any other pertinent information.
 2. The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.
- (c) Provide all available information to the Supervisor. If feasible, sensitive information should be communicated over secure networks.
- (d) Take command of and secure the incident scene with additional CCMO members until properly relieved by another supervisor or other assigned personnel or investigator.
- (e) As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
- (a) Each involved CCMO deputy shall be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with anyone pending further direction from a supervisor.
 - (b) When an involved officer's weapon is taken or left at the scene for other than officer-safety reasons (e.g., evidence), ensure that he/she is provided with a comparable replacement weapon or transported by other deputies.
 - (c) All outside inquiries about the incident shall be directed to the Marshal or his designee.

305.5.3 NOTIFICATIONS

The following persons shall be notified as soon as practicable:

- (a) Marshal
- (b) Supervisor or investigator
- (c) Outside agency investigators
- (d) Medical Examiner (if necessary)
- (e) County Attorney (Utah Code 76-2-408)

305.5.4 INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.
 1. Involved CCMO deputies shall not be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with or without an attorney or any representative prior to providing a formal interview or report.
 2. Requests from involved non-CCMO officers should be referred to their employing agency.
- (b) Discussions with licensed attorneys will be considered privileged as attorney-client communications.

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- (c) Discussions with agency representatives/employee groups will be privileged only as to the discussion of non-criminal information.
- (d) A licensed psychotherapist shall be provided by the Office to each involved CCMO deputy. A licensed psychotherapist may also be provided to any other affected CCMO members, upon request (ARS § 38-672).
 - (a) Interviews with a licensed psychotherapist will be considered privileged.
 - (b) An interview or session with a licensed psychotherapist may take place after the member has provided a formal interview or report. Involved members shall not be permitted to consult or meet collectively or in a group with a licensed psychotherapist prior to providing a formal interview or report.
 - (c) A separate fitness-for-duty exam shall be required prior to returning to work (see the Fitness for Duty Policy).
- (e) Although the Office will honor the sensitivity of communications with peer counselors, there is no legal privilege to such communications. Peer counselors are cautioned against discussing the facts of any incident with an involved or witness officer.

Care should be taken to preserve the integrity of any physical evidence present on the involved officer's equipment or clothing, such as blood or fingerprints, until investigators or lab personnel can properly retrieve it.

Each involved CCMO deputy shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following an officer-involved shooting or death. It shall be the responsibility of the Supervisor to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

305.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office is responsible for the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any officer-involved shooting or death.

If available, investigative personnel from this office may be assigned to partner with investigators from outside agencies or the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to avoid duplicating efforts in related criminal investigations.

Once public safety issues have been addressed, criminal investigators should be given the opportunity to obtain a voluntary statement from involved officers and to complete their interviews. The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) CCMO supervisors and Administration personnel should not participate directly in any voluntary interview of CCMO deputies. This will not prohibit such personnel from monitoring interviews or providing the criminal investigators with topics for inquiry.
- (b) If requested, any involved officer will be afforded the opportunity to consult individually with a representative of his/her choosing or an attorney prior to speaking with criminal investigators. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each involved officer's statement, involved deputies shall not consult or meet with a representative or an attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.

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- (c) If any involved officer is physically, emotionally or otherwise not in a position to provide a voluntary statement when interviewed by criminal investigators, consideration should be given to allowing a reasonable period for the officer to schedule an alternate time for the interview.
- (d) Any voluntary statement provided by an involved officer will be made available for inclusion in any related investigation, including administrative investigations. However, no administratively coerced statement will be provided to any criminal investigators unless the officer consents.

305.6.1 REPORTS BY INVOLVED CCMO DEPUTIES

In the event that suspects remain outstanding or subject to prosecution for related offenses, this office shall retain the authority to require involved CCMO deputies to provide sufficient information for related criminal reports to facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of those individuals.

It is generally recommended that such reports be completed by assigned investigators, who should interview all involved officers as victims/witnesses. Since the purpose of these reports will be to facilitate criminal prosecution, statements of involved officers should focus on evidence to establish the elements of criminal activities by suspects. Care should be taken not to duplicate information provided by involved officers in other reports.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an involved CCMO deputy of the right to consult with legal counsel prior to completing any such criminal report.

Reports related to the prosecution of criminal suspects will be processed according to normal procedures but should also be included for reference in the investigation of the officer-involved shooting or death.

305.6.2 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an officer-involved shooting or death may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, a supervisor should take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with criminal investigators to utilize available law enforcement personnel for the following:

- (a) Identification of all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.
 - (a) When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those persons who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
 - (b) Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. No individual shall be detained for the sole purpose of identification. Deputies may attempt to identify the witness prior to his/her departure, but if the potential witness declines to answer any questions, the individual must be permitted to leave..

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- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by a member of the Office.
 - (a) A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent shall be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent shall be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transportation.
- (c) Promptly contacting the suspect's known family and associates to obtain any available and untainted background information about the suspect's activities and state of mind prior to the incident.

305.6.3 INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

Once notified of an officer-involved shooting or death, it shall be the responsibility of the designated supervisor to assign appropriate investigative personnel to handle the investigation of related crimes. Office investigators will be assigned to work with investigators from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and may be assigned to separately handle the investigation of any related crimes not being investigated by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

All related office reports, except administrative and/or privileged reports, will be forwarded to the designated supervisor for approval. Privileged reports shall be maintained exclusively by members who are authorized such access. Administrative reports will be forwarded to the appropriate supervisor.

305.7 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

In addition to all other investigations associated with officer-involved shooting or death, this office will conduct an internal administrative investigation of the involved CCMO deputies to determine conformance with office policy. This investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Marshal and will be considered a confidential deputy personnel file until the investigation is complete or the investigation has been discontinued (ARS § 38-1109).

Interviews of members shall be subject to office policies and applicable laws (see the Personnel Complaints Policy).

- (a) Any deputy involved in a shooting or death may be requested or administratively compelled to provide a blood sample for alcohol/drug screening. Absent consent from the deputy, such compelled samples and the results of any such testing shall not be disclosed to any criminal investigative agency.
- (b) If any deputy has voluntarily elected to provide a statement to criminal investigators, the assigned administrative investigator should review that statement before proceeding with any further interview of that involved deputy.
- (c) In the event that an involved deputy has elected not to provide criminal investigators with a voluntary statement, the assigned administrative investigator shall conduct an administrative interview to determine all relevant information.
 - 1. Although this interview should not be unreasonably delayed, care should be taken to ensure that the deputy's physical and psychological needs have been addressed before commencing the interview.

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2. If requested, the deputy shall have the opportunity to select an uninvolved representative to be present during the interview. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each individual deputy's statement, involved deputies shall not consult or meet with a representative collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.
3. Administrative interviews shall be recorded by the investigator. The deputy may also record the interview.
4. The deputy shall be informed of the nature of the investigation. If a deputy refuses to answer questions, he/she shall be given his/her *Garrity* rights, and ordered to provide full and truthful answers to all questions. The deputy shall be informed that the interview will be for administrative purposes only and that the statement cannot be used criminally (ARS § 38-1104).
5. The Administration shall compile all relevant information and reports necessary for the Office to determine compliance with applicable policies.
6. Regardless of whether the use of force is an issue in the case, the completed administrative investigation shall be submitted to the Use of Force Review Board, which will restrict its findings as to whether there was compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
7. Any other indications of potential policy violations shall be determined in accordance with standard disciplinary procedures.

305.8 CIVIL LIABILITY RESPONSE

A member of this office may be assigned to work exclusively under the direction of the legal counsel for the Office to assist in the preparation of materials deemed necessary in anticipation of potential civil litigation.

All materials generated in this capacity shall be considered attorney work-product and may not be used for any other purpose. The civil liability response is not intended to interfere with any other investigation. However, persons preparing the response shall be given reasonable access to all other investigations.

305.9 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any MAV, body-worn and other known video or audio recordings of an incident should not be publicly released during an ongoing investigation without consulting the prosecuting attorney or Town Attorney's Office, as appropriate.

305.10 DEBRIEFING

Following an officer-involved shooting or death, the CCMO shall conduct both a critical incident/ stress debriefing and a tactical debriefing.

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305.10.1 CRITICAL INCIDENT/STRESS DEBRIEFING

A critical incident/stress debriefing should occur as soon as practicable, but shall not be conducted until all involved members have provided recorded or formal statements to criminal and/or administrative investigators. The Marshal or his designee is responsible for organizing the debriefing. Notes and recorded statements should not be taken because the sole purpose of the debriefing is to help mitigate the stress-related effects of a traumatic event.

The debriefing is not part of any investigative process. Care should be taken not to release or repeat any communication made during a debriefing unless otherwise authorized by policy, law or a valid court order (ARS § 38-1111).

Attendance at the debriefing shall only include those members of the Office directly involved in the incident, which can include support personnel (e.g., dispatcher's, other civilian). Family or other support personnel may attend with the concurrence of those involved in the incident. The debriefing shall be closed to the public and should be closed to all other members of the Office, including supervisory and Administration personnel.

305.10.2 TACTICAL DEBRIEFING

A tactical debriefing should take place to identify any training or areas of policy that need improvement. The Marshal should identify the appropriate participants. This debriefing shall not be conducted until all involved members have provided recorded or formal statements to criminal and/or administrative investigators.

305.11 MEDIA RELATIONS

Any media release shall be prepared with input and concurrence from the Marshal or his designee and office representative responsible for each phase of the investigation. Releases will be available to the Supervisor, and Public Information Officer in the event of inquiries from the media.

No involved CCMO deputy shall make any comment to the media unless he/she is authorized by the Marshal.

Office members receiving inquiries regarding officer-involved shootings or deaths occurring in other jurisdictions shall refrain from public comment and will direct those inquiries to the agency having jurisdiction and primary responsibility for the investigation.

305.12 REPORTING

If the death of an individual occurs in the CCMO jurisdiction and qualifies to be reported to the Department of Public Safety, the Marshal or his designee will ensure that the Records Manager is provided with enough information to meet the reporting requirements (ARS § 41-1750; AAC § R13-1-302).

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305.13 UTAH STATUTORY MANDATES RELATED TO INVESTIGATIONS OF CRITICAL INCIDENTS

The Supervisor shall notify the County Attorney as soon as practicable if the following critical incidents occur within the jurisdiction of the CCMO whether or not an involved law enforcement officer is an office member (Utah Code 76-2-408):

- (a) Use of a firearm that caused an injury by a law enforcement officer or any other use of a weapon by a law enforcement officer in a manner that could have caused death or serious injury (e.g., a blow to the head of a person with a baton).
- (b) A fatal injury to any person that could have been caused by a law enforcement officer or while the person was in the custody of a law enforcement agency.

The Marshal or his designee and the County Attorney shall jointly designate an agency to criminally investigate the actions of a law enforcement officer involved in a critical incident, as appropriate, and may jointly designate a lead agency if more than one agency will be involved. An agency other than the CCMO will criminally investigate the actions of members who may have caused or contributed to a critical incident (Utah Code 716-2-408).