

Use of Force

Criminal Justice

The escalation frameworks used in training, and the questions each level poses.

Force must be necessary, proportionate and the least sufficient option.

Level	Typical form	Governing question
Presence	Uniform, positioning	Is any force needed at all?
Verbal	Direction, warning	Has communication been tried?
Restraint	Handcuffs, holds	Is this the least option?
Irritant or impact	Spray, baton	Proportionate to the threat?
Lethal	Firearm	Imminent risk to life?

Educational reference. Continuum models are training aids, not law; legal tests and recording standards vary by jurisdiction.