In reference to case 2501270106, this was a highly charged and dynamic situation involving a 17-year-old who was locked in a bathroom and said she was cutting herself. In this case the force used to detain the subject was justified. However, in reviewing the use of force it was noticed you yelled at the detainee's mother to "Shut-up" This PPR serves as a reminder to utilize communication techniques serving to deescalate, rather than escalate. In this situation there were several other officers on scene to de-escalate the mother, and your intervention was not exigent or necessary. Any further violation may result in disciplinary action.

G.O. 2020, Provocation and, De-escalation.

## **DEFINITIONS**

## De-escalation

De-escalation is acting and/or communicating verbally or non-verbally throughout a potential force encounter to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of a threat so that more time, options, and resources are available to resolve the situation using the least force necessary. De-escalation is also an effort to reduce or end the need for use of force after a threat has diminished.

When reasonable, officers will gather information about the incident, assess the risk, assemble resources, attempt to slow momentum, communicate with the subject, provide an opportunity for compliance, and coordinate a response. Officers should use warnings, verbal persuasion, and other tactics as alternatives to higher levels of force. When feasible, an officer may withdraw to a position that is tactically more secure or allows greater distance in order to consider or deploy a greater variety of force options.

## Provocation

Provocation includes conduct that may create or contribute to a need to use force that might not otherwise be necessary. This can include illegal searches, detentions, and entries into residences. It can also include unprofessional exchanges or other acts, intentional or reckless, that provokes the subject or contributes to the need to use force. Such conduct must be documented and considered in determining whether the officer unnecessarily or recklessly escalated the situation.

Sergeant Pelton 39293 02/18/2025

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