



WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE BOARD POLICY

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Subject: | Use of Force and Weapons |
| Policy Number: | AI-012 |
| Effective Date: | December 4, 2024 |
| Reviewed: | |
| Amended: | |

Authority/Legislative References

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1

Ontario Regulation 391/23 Use of Force and Weapons

Policy Statement

The Woodstock Police Service Board (the "Board") acknowledges that both statutory and common law grant police the authority to use force, including lethal force, in the course of their duties. This authority must be exercised with the highest degree of respect and accountability to maintain the community's trust and confidence. The use of force should always be necessary, proportional, and reasonable given the circumstances, recognizing the protection of life and ensuring the safety of both Woodstock Police Service (the "Service") members and the public. The Board is committed to upholding and promoting the highest standards of performance, training, accountability and transparency in relation to the use of force, in full compliance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act* and *Ontario Regulation 391/23 Use of Force and Weapons (O. Reg. 391/23)*. The Board emphasizes the importance of de-escalation techniques in training and education to

effectively manage situations that have the potential for violence.

Policy Application

The Chief of Police (the "Chief") shall ensure that:

1. every member of the Service who may be required to use force on another person is in compliance with prescribed training requirements on the use of force;
2. before a firearm is issued to a member of the Service, the member is in compliance with the applicable training requirements prescribed by the Service and the Minister and is competent in the use of the firearm;
3. every member of the Service who is authorized to carry or use a firearm is in compliance with the prescribed training requirements on the use of firearms;
4. every member of the Service who is authorized to carry or use a weapon that is not a firearm is in compliance with the prescribed training requirements on the use of the weapon;
5. records are maintained of the training taken by members of the Service on the use of force, the use of firearms and the use of weapons that are not firearms and of when each training was taken;
6. all weapons authorized and distributed for use within the Service to the technical specifications in *O. Reg. 391/23*;
7. an investigation must be initiated immediately, and a report must be filed with the Board whenever a member of the Service discharges a firearm in the performance of their duty and causes injury or death to another person.
8. the Board is promptly informed when the Chief discharges a firearm in the performance of the Chief's duties. The Board shall cause an investigation to be made into the circumstances should such an incident occur; and

9. ongoing review and evaluation of local use of force procedures, training and reporting occurs.

Reporting

10. The Chief shall provide a copy of the Service's annual Use of Force Report to the Board that includes the following:
 - a. the number of use of force incidents and reports;
 - b. a description of the type of force used;
 - c. time of day of the use of force;
 - d. the number of armed and unarmed subjects;
 - e. the number of years of service the member had at the time the use of force occurred;
 - f. the perceived race of the subject of the use of force;
 - g. details of de-escalation training provided and the number of members who received such training; and
 - h. any other relevant information that may assist the Board in understanding the application of the use of force and possible trends.
11. Data shall be provided for the previous five years where applicable, to enable comparisons.
12. The Board shall make the report available to the public.