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Incident Review Process

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is summary information for those who might have specific questions regarding how incidents are reviewed. To read our Policies and Procedures in their entirety, please click [here](#).

Q: Does every use of force get investigated as an Internal Affairs Investigation?

A: No. Use of Force incidents are comprehensively reviewed by the deputy's Captain and our Division of Inspectional Services staff. The Division of Inspectional Services is an objective stand-alone unit which is tasked with the independent review of use of force incidents and other important functions. Statistics for use of force incidents resulting in great bodily injury and all deputy involved shootings are gathered and sent to state and federal agencies in compliance with California Government Code 12525.2. If, during the in-depth and independent review of an incident, a violation of policy is identified, an Internal Affairs investigation may be initiated at that time by anyone in the chain of command.

Q: Does every deputy involved shooting get investigated as an Internal Affairs Investigation?

A: No. Deputy involved shootings are thoroughly investigated by our Homicide Unit (or, if it occurred outside of our jurisdiction, by the agency of jurisdiction). Once the in-depth investigation is completed, the case is thoroughly reviewed by the District Attorney. If, during the multiple layers of investigation and review, a violation of policy is identified, an Internal Affairs investigation may be initiated.

Q: What if an employee commits a crime?

A: The Sheriff's Department takes criminal allegations against its employees very seriously. If there is a criminal allegation, there will be a criminal investigation and an internal investigation.



Q: Is there another way of reviewing critical incidents?

A: Yes, the Sheriff's Department has a Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB). The CIRB carefully reviews critical incidents from multiple perspectives, including training, tactics, policies, and procedures with the ultimate goal of identifying problem areas and recommending remedial actions for incidents such as use of deadly force, pursuits, law enforcement injuries resulting in injury or hospital admittance and others. The CIRB consists of Commanders, the Chief Legal Advisor as well as other important staff. If, after review, it is determined a policy violation may have occurred, the case will be sent to Internal Affairs.

Q: Is there an external group who might review critical incidents?

A: The Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) reviews, and investigates complaints about the conduct of peace officers performing their duties while employed by the Sheriff's Department. The Review Board also investigates deaths that arise out of, or in connection with, the actions of these peace officers, regardless of whether a complaint is filed. The Review Board makes advisory findings on complaints and recommendations for policy and procedure changes to the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors. The focus of the Review Board is fact-finding, not advocacy for complainants or peace officers.

For more information on CLERB, click [here](#).

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