

# Use of Force

## Witness Officer Statement Guide



Your statement should have a standard heading that states, "This is a witness officer statement given in compliance with section 8.300 of the Seattle Police Dept. Manual"

"I was directed by \_\_\_\_\_ to write this statement"

Please provide a detailed narrative answer to each of the questions asked. The listed bullet points are not specific to your incident, and may or may not apply.

### 1. Was the contact ICV and/or audio recorded

- If yes, did it capture the use of force
- If either is not activated, explain why

### 2. What was the reason for the initial police contact?

- If dispatched
  - What were the details on the call
    - Type of crime
    - Any weapons involved
- If on view
  - What brought your attention to the subject and what did you see
    - Information from complainant/witnesses
    - Type of crime
    - Any weapons involved
- Legal authority to be at the location
  - Public area, consent, warrant, exigency, community caretaking (involuntary treatment)
- Legal purpose for the contact or detention
  - Social contact, Terry stop, custodial arrest
  - Any progression of contact (e.g: social contact changing to Terry)
- Describe the scene when you arrived
  - Inside or outside
  - Lighting/weather
  - Environmental/physical hazards/possible weapons

### 3. Detailed description of the incident to include the words, actions and threat posed by the suspect

- Suspect descriptors
  - Suspect's physical or verbal reaction to officer
  - Suspect's size/strength in comparison to the officer
  - Tone of voice / statements made
  - Body posture / movement

- Perceived intoxication or mental state
- Any attempt to flee, fight, or resist arrest

**4. Detailed description of your actions during the incident**

- Contact with the subject
  - Any physical contact
  - Verbal
    - What did you tell the subject to do prior to and during the use of force
      - How did the subject respond to your direction

**5. Detailed description of the force used by other officers, if you clearly observed it**

- List all officers you remember being there, even if they didn't use force
- Describe what you personally saw or heard

**6. Detailed description of any visible injury, complaint of injury or lack of injury and if any medical assistance was needed or provided**

- Were there visible injuries to the subject before force was used?
- Were there visible injuries to the subject after being taken into custody?
- Did the subject complain of injury after being taken into custody?
- Was the subject given medical treatment of any kind?
  - Who provided medical treatment? (SFD, AMR)
  - Did the subject go to the hospital?

**7. Document the in-person supervisory screening of the incident**

- Name and serial number of the sergeant who responded
- Where did it occur

**8. Other information you believe is pertinent to the investigation.**