

Use of Force Involved Officer Statement Guide



If you are invoking your rights under Garrity, your statement must have a standard heading that states, "This is a true and involuntary statement given by me in compliance with Section 8.300 of the Seattle Police Department Manual".

"I was ordered by _____ to write this statement."

I do ☐, I do not ☐, invoke my Garrity rights prior to giving 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 stop)
- 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 subject

- Subject descriptors
 - Subject's physical or verbal reaction to officer
 - Subject's size/strength in comparison to the officer
 - Tone of voice / statements made
 - Body posture / movement
 - Perceived intoxication or mental state
 - Attempts to flee, fight, or resist arrest

4. Detailed description of the force used by you during the incident

- What specific techniques did you use?
 - Control, grappling, or strikes
 - Document and explain all strikes you remember.
 - Was it effective?
 - Use specific language for all physical contact, do not use general statements such as:
 - "took subject to the ground"
 - "suspect was handcuffed after a struggle"
 - "suspects legs were restrained"
- "TASER"
 - Were you able to give a verbal warning?
 - Distance from suspect?
 - Document and explain each application you remember.
 - Probe or drive stun application?
 - Was it effective?
 - Serial number of "TASER" and cartridge?
 - Medical screening?
- OC Spray
 - Were you able to give a verbal warning?
 - Distance from subject.
 - Size/type of canister.
 - Document and explain each application you remember.
 - Targeted areas/ areas struck.
 - Was it effective?
 - Did the subject request or receive decontamination (water)?
- Impact Weapons
 - What type of impact weapon (baton, asp, other)?
 - Document and explain all strikes you remember.

- Was it effective?
- Where were you trained with these weapons or techniques?
 - Academy training, department training or outside training.
- What did you tell the suspect to do prior to and during the use of force?
 - How did the suspect respond to your direction?
- Reasonableness of force.
 - How did the totality of the circumstances influence the force used?
 - What force options did you have available to you and what was their feasibility?
- Were you able to reduce or stop using force?
 - When and why could you do this?

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 arrest and use of force.

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

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