

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
LA GRANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 6/20

1. Does the La Grange Police Department Use Chokeholds and Strangleholds?

The Illinois Criminal Code (720ILCS 5/7-5.5) details prohibited use of force by peace officers. A “chokehold” is unlawful under the Illinois Criminal Code when used by a law enforcement officer in any situation where deadly force is not justified.

The Police Department also has a policy prohibiting chokeholds which mirrors the State Statute.

2. Are La Grange Police Officers Trained to De-escalate Altercations?

The Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727) and Illinois Police Training Act (50 ILCA 705) mandates training requirements for active police officers in the State of Illinois. The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board is the state agency mandated to oversee training requirements, curriculum and standards. The Police Department’s training regimen includes de-escalation training. More information regarding Police Officer training is provided on the Village website and the Police Department Monthly Reports.

The La Grange Police Department has multiple policies that require the use of de-escalation techniques in a variety of scenarios. Some examples of those scenarios are mental health calls, civil disputes and civil commitments.

3. Are La Grange Police Officers Required to Exhaust Other Possible Options Before Using Force?

Pursuant to La Grange Police Policy, Officers shall use only that amount of force that is reasonably necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers using any type of force are accountable for the force that was used. The La Grange Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to review and evaluate all incidents.

4. Are La Grange Police Officers Required To Intervene if they Witness another Officer Using Force That Is Unreasonable?

Police Officers observing another officer using force that is beyond that which is reasonable under the circumstances are required to intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law are required to promptly report the observations to a supervisor. In all allegations of unreasonable force, an internal investigation will commence by the order of the Chief of Police and where found, may result in discipline ranging from reprimand through suspension or termination.

5. Are La Grange Police Officers Required to Give a Verbal Warning Before Drawing Their Weapon Or Using Force?

La Grange Police Department policy states that a verbal warning should precede the use of deadly force where feasible. Officers shall use force only to the extent reasonably necessary given the facts and circumstances confronting the officer to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers using any type of force are accountable for the force that was used. The La Grange Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to review and evaluate all incidents.

6. Are La Grange Police Officers Allowed to Shoot at Moving Vehicles?

A La Grange Police Officer is not allowed to discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle unless deadly force is justified. The Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5/7-5) identifies the parameters of a Police Officer's use of force in making an arrest and including the use of deadly force.

7. Are La Grange Police Officers Trained in a Use of Force Continuum?

La Grange Police policies outline a use of force continuum which provides for a variety of interactions:

- Level 1 – Officer Presence
- Level 2 – Verbal commands
- Level 3 – Physical Compliance Techniques
- Level 4 – Chemical Agents
- Level 5 – Less Lethal
- Level 6 – Deadly Force

8. Are La Grange Police Officers require to report each time they use force?

La Grange Police policies require that any use of force shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately. A report is required to be filed for any incident involving the use of physical compliance techniques, chemical agents or weapons and a review of the incident is conducted by supervisory staff. The La Grange Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to reviewing and evaluating all use of force incidents.

9. Are La Grange Police Officers Trained to Perform and Seek Necessary Medical Action After Use of Force?

It is the policy of the La Grange Police Department that if an injury is alleged or results from a police officer's use of force, it shall be the involved Officer's responsibility to ensure that adequate medical care is made available to the injured party as soon as practicable.

The protocol for providing medical aid includes notification to a supervisor, summoning medical assistance, and documentation of injuries and a written report. All La Grange police officers are trained in first aid, CPR and the medical administration of Narcan.