

# FAQ's: Elgin PD Policies

The officers of the Elgin Police Department hold to the highest regard the sanctity of human life, dignity and liberty of all persons.

Question	Answer
1. What type of training does EPD provide regarding use of force?	Annually the department conducts a mandatory Response to Resistance training for designated personnel. Training includes a review of the laws concerning the use of authorized lethal weapons, and the department's policy on Response to Resistance. The training is also scenario-based and incorporates communications and tactics.
2. What is EPD's policy regarding chokeholds?	EPD does not train to apply pressure to the throat, windpipe, or airway of another with the intent to reduce or prevent the intake of air, known as chokeholds. This is strictly prohibited with the exception provided by Illinois State law 720 ILCS 5/7-5.5 which states it may only be used if deadly force is justified.
3. What warning does EPD issue before using deadly force?	When appropriate, officers shall identify themselves as police officers and give warning of the imminent use of deadly force prior to such use.
4. What happens before deadly force is used?	Officers exhaust all options. They are trained to use advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and other tactics and alternatives to higher levels of force.
5. What is the use of force continuum?	Officers determine the most effective/safe level of force to mitigate the threat and ensure the use is proportional to the threat based on the situation's totality. Officers are trained to move up and down the continuum.
6. Is use of force reported by officers?	All response to resistance are reported and are reviewed through the officer's chain of command. These incidents are inclusive of Use of Force and Show of Force. EPD issues a Use of Force report on an annual basis available at the following link: <a href="https://cityofelgin.org/epdtransparency">https://cityofelgin.org/epdtransparency</a>
7. What if an officer sees excessive force being used?	An officer observing another officer using force that is clearly outside objectively reasonable or proportionate under the circumstances shall, when appropriate, safely intervene and notify a supervisor.
8. Does EPD shoot at moving vehicles?	An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle when there is no other way to avert the threat of the vehicle, or the vehicle is directed at the officer or others.
9. Are EPD officers required to wear body cameras?	Yes, EPD has had body cameras for three years and officers are required by state law to record, when the officer is in uniform, when responding to calls for service or engaged in any official law enforcement related encounter. Body worn camera policy link: <a href="https://www.powerdms.com/public/ELGPD/tree/documents/1211144">https://www.powerdms.com/public/ELGPD/tree/documents/1211144</a>
10. What is EPD's policy on transporting people?	It is the policy of EPD to transport people in a manner that will adequately provide for the safety and security of the person, officers and the community.
11. Where can I locate EPD policies?	EPD policies are available to the public by visiting the website directly below. EPD will participate in an accreditation process in the next year through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Council, who will compare EPD policies against established criteria, and will have EPD's compliance with those criteria verified by an independent and authoritative body. <a href="https://cityofelgin.org/epdtransparency">https://cityofelgin.org/epdtransparency</a>



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12. Does EPD perform any kind of anti-racism/bias training for officers?	Yes, all officers are trained in fair and impartial training (bias training). More information about this training can be found at the link below:  <a href="https://fipolicing.com">https://fipolicing.com</a> .
	Officers also receive academy training with regard to biased policing issues, including legal aspects, in conformance with the Illinois Police Training Act, and they receive updated training. EPD also has a policy that prohibits discriminatory profiling which can be located at the link below:  <a href="https://www.powerdms.com/public/ELGPD/tree/documents/345822">https://www.powerdms.com/public/ELGPD/tree/documents/345822</a>
13. How does internal affairs investigate and respond to reports of misconduct against officers?	All complaints are thoroughly investigated. More detailed information about EPD's complaint process, along with access to online complaints, can be found at the following link:  <a href="https://cityofelgin.org/1455/employee-complaints">https://cityofelgin.org/1455/employee-complaints</a>
14. How are new recruits screened?	A thorough and comprehensive hiring process takes place that includes a complete background investigation that also reviews social media accounts. Prior to hiring an interview with the Elgin Board of Fire and Police Commission also takes place. Recruiting information is available at the link below:  <a href="https://www.cityofelgin.org/1943/Police-Ocer-Application-Process">https://www.cityofelgin.org/1943/Police-Ocer-Application-Process</a>
15. What is the availability of mental health professionals at EPD to assist officers?	There are three part-time mental health professionals who work directly with police officers in the Collaborative Crisis Services Unit. Additionally, there are four full-time social workers who work in the Social Services Unit. For more information, visit:  <a href="https://cityofelgin.org/ccsu">https://cityofelgin.org/ccsu</a>
16. Are officers trained in crisis intervention?	Officers receive 40 classroom hours of crisis intervention training (CIT) and additional training provided by EPD. CIT training information is located at the following link:  <a href="https://www.ptb.illinois.gov/training/crisis-intervention-team-cit/">https://www.ptb.illinois.gov/training/crisis-intervention-team-cit/</a>
17. What does the Social Services Unit do?	EPD's Social Services Unit is comprised of professional, licensed social workers and counselors. All services are designed to improve family relations, school, and, interpersonal relationships. Services provided may also encompass intervention and prevention of behavioral problems. All services are free to residents of Elgin and include the following: crisis intervention, crisis counseling, individual counseling, family counseling, legal advocacy and information and referrals to other community resources. More information is located at the following link:  <a href="https://www.cityofelgin.org/298/Social-Services">https://www.cityofelgin.org/298/Social-Services</a>

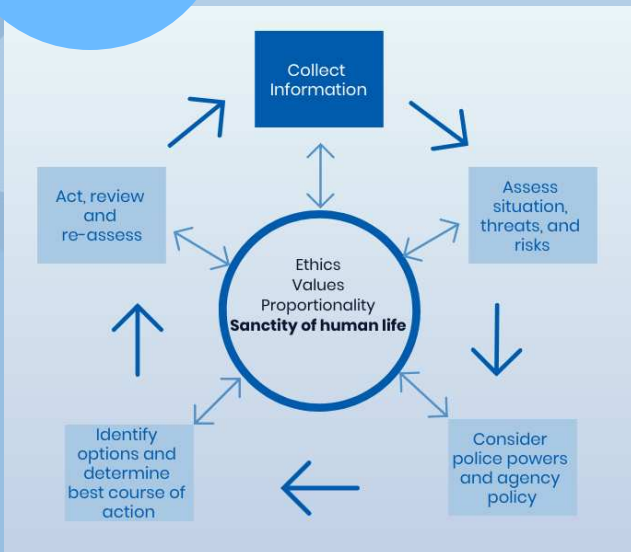


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Question	Answer
18. What is the Collaborative Crisis Services Unit (CCSU)?	The Collaborative Crisis Services Unit (CCSU) is responsible for conducting follow-up visits for individuals who could benefit from mental or behavioral health services. This unit utilizes community resources, including the department's own Social Services Unit, to connect individuals with appropriate services. CCSU has three primary areas of focus: mental and behavioral health, substance use disorder services, and homelessness issues. The primary model used by CCSU is a co-response model, which pairs a police officer with a mental health professional. CCSU currently has two officers and three mental health professionals. More information is located at the following link:
	<a href="https://cityofelgin.org/ccsu">https://cityofelgin.org/ccsu</a>
19. Are officers required to use de-escalation techniques and what are they?	There are several approaches to de-escalating situations. The Emergency Services Detail is one option, explained below. As mentioned previously, officers use critical incident methods obtained through their training, including crisis intervention training (CIT), as well as utilizing resources provided by CCSU. The Critical Decision Making Model, as illustrated below, is also used as a guideline.
20. What is the Emergency Services Detail (ESD)?	The Emergency Services Detail is staffed by two officers who are readily available to be deployed immediately into an incident where a person is exhibiting signs of emotional distress or potentially violent behavior. Since there is not a delay in the insertion of these officers, specialized training and equipment to handle an incident is readily available. This was framed after trips touring New York City PD, London Metropolitan Police and Police Scotland.

## Critical Decision Making Model

Illustration referenced in #19



## Elgin Police Department Resource Links

Annual Report & statistics: [cityofelgin.org/stats](http://cityofelgin.org/stats)

EPD website: [cityofelgin.org/police](http://cityofelgin.org/police)

EPD Facebook: [facebook.com/elginpolice](https://facebook.com/elginpolice)

EPD Instagram: [instagram.com/elginpolice](https://instagram.com/elginpolice)

EPD Twitter: [twitter.com/elginpd](https://twitter.com/elginpd)

