

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy Manual

310 OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING

310.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policy and procedures for the investigation of an incident in which a person is injured as the result of a shooting. The intent of this policy is to ensure that such incidents be investigated in a fair and impartial manner.

Nothing in this policy is intended to increase, modify or in any way affect the current legal standards nor shall any deviation from these guidelines be considered a breach of any legal standard.

310.2 INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBILITY

310.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Officer-involved shootings involve several separate investigations. The investigations may include:

- A criminal investigation of the incident by the agency having jurisdiction where the incident occurred. This department may, however, request that the criminal investigation be conducted by an uninvolved outside agency with the approval of the Chief of Police.
- A criminal investigation of the involved officer conducted by an outside agency.
- A civil investigation to determine potential liability conducted by the involved officer's agency.
- An administrative investigation conducted by the involved officer's agency to determine if there were any violations of department policy.

310.4 JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is determined by the location of the shooting and the agency employing the involved officer. The following scenarios outline the jurisdictional responsibilities for investigating officer-involved shootings.

310.4.1 COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER WITHIN THIS JURISDICTION

The Columbia Police Department is responsible for the criminal investigation of the suspect's actions, the civil investigation and the administrative investigation. The criminal investigation of the officer-involved shooting may be conducted by an uninvolved outside law enforcement agency that has been asked to conduct the investigation.

310.4.2 OUTSIDE AGENCY'S OFFICER WITHIN THIS JURISDICTION

The Columbia Police Department is responsible for the criminal investigation of the suspect's actions. The criminal investigation of the officer-involved shooting will be conducted by this department or an uninvolved outside agency. The officer's employing agency will be responsible for any civil and/or administrative investigation.

310.4.3 COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION

The agency where the incident occurred has criminal jurisdiction and is responsible for the criminal investigation of the incident. That agency may relinquish its criminal investigation of the suspect to another agency. The Columbia Police Department will conduct timely civil and/or administrative investigations of its own personnel.

310.5.4 NOTIFICATIONS

The following persons shall be notified as soon as practicable:

1. Chief of Police
2. Operations Support Bureau Commander
3. Outside agency investigators (if appropriate)
4. Internal Affairs Unit supervisor
5. Psychological/peer support personnel
6. Medical Examiner (if necessary)
7. Public Information Officer

All outside inquiries about the incident shall be directed to the until the Public Information Officer assumes that duty.

310.5.5 MEDIA RELATIONS

It is the policy of this department to not release the identities of involved officers absent their consent or as required by law. Moreover, no involved officer shall be subjected to contact from the media and no involved officer shall make any comments to the press unless authorized by the Chief of Police or a Bureau Commander.

310.8 PERSONNEL INVESTIGATION

In addition to all other investigations associated with an officer-involved shooting, this department will conduct an internal personnel investigation, to determine conformance with department policy. This investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Internal Affairs Unit and will only be released when required by law.