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**POLICY REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT DEADLY FORCE  
ENCOUNTERS**

When a law enforcement officer, in the course of his or her duties, resorts to the use of deadly force which results in the death of another, an investigation is conducted by either the person's own agency, or if requested by the head of the department, it may be done by an independent law enforcement agency. Regardless of who investigates the case, the State Attorney's Office conducts a separate, independent investigation. That investigation is conducted parallel to, or at the same time as that being conducted by the law enforcement agency. The State Attorney's investigation is handled by one of our agencies investigators and is monitored by an experienced major crimes attorney, the Chief Assistant State Attorney and the State Attorney himself.

The contents and results of the law enforcement agency's investigation are presented to the State Attorney's Office. It is the policy of this State Attorney's Office to present every law enforcement deadly force encounter, which results in death, to a local Grand Jury. The Grand Jury will be called into session by the State Attorney where they will be asked to consider the entire investigation all of the evidence which has been gathered as well as testimony of witnesses will be presented to the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury is composed of a cross section of the community. The jurors themselves may question witnesses, call additional witnesses or request that additional investigation be done. When satisfied that they have heard all of the available evidence the Grand Jury will decide whether or not to file a criminal charge against anyone.

In some instances the case may be presented to the Grand Jury within two or three months of the event. However it is not unusual for it to be longer than that. Cases of this nature usually involve locating and interviewing a number of witnesses, conducting forensic investigations, and testing and analyzing physical and scientific evidence.

While we realize that members of the community are anxious to know the details of what took place in such incidents, it is of foremost importance that releasing details of an ongoing criminal investigation to the public, be weighed against insuring the integrity of the investigation.