WOODBURY COUNTY COURTHOUSE SECURITY

USE OF FORCE POLICY

Individual circumstances will govern the appropriate order, combination(s) and level(s) of force to be applied to any given situation. However, a security officer should only use force which the officer reasonably believes is necessary under the circumstances. The following continuum generally describes the types of force employed by Woodbury County Courthouse security officers.

1. Verbal persuasion
2. Verbal command
3. Soft hands
4. Hard hands used in a manner designed for greatest likelihood of compliance with least likelihood of injury
5. ASP baton
6. Lethal force
   A. Security personnel are authorized to use deadly force to protect the officer or others from what is objectively and reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.

Under unique circumstances it may be necessary and appropriate to consider other methods or instruments of force, but only when the officer reasonably believes they are necessary to protect the individual, the officer, or other(s) from injury or harm.

Disengagement is also an option which may be considered depending on the circumstances.

The following factors provide a framework for a Woodbury County Courthouse security officer's assessment of whether use of force is necessary and for determining the level(s) and order of force to apply to a given situation.

1. The nature and scope of the acts or offense.
2. Whether the individual poses an immediate risk to self, the officer or other individuals in the building.
3. The size, weight, and apparent physical ability of the individual.
4. The level of the individual's resistance.
5. Whether the individual is armed.
6. Whether the use of force would pose an unnecessary risk to the officer, or others(s).
7. Whether local law enforcement officials are present, on the way, or in the vicinity.

All incidents involving the use of force by security personnel will be documented and reported to the security supervisor.

Approved August 26, 2014.

George W. Boyken

Chairman, Woodbury County Board of Supervisors