

Policy statement for the State of Ohio standard for Use of Deadly Force

The preservation of human life is of the highest value in the State of Ohio. Therefore, employees must have an objectively reasonable belief deadly force is necessary to protect life before the use of deadly force. Deadly force, including, but not limited to, the use of a choke hold or vascular neck restraint¹, may be used only under the following circumstances:

1. To defend themselves from serious physical injury or death; or
2. To defend another person from serious physical injury or death; or
3. In accordance with U.S. and Ohio Supreme Court decisions, specifically, *Tennessee v. Garner* and *Graham v. Connor*.

¹ The term “choke hold” is defined as a physical maneuver that restricts an individual’s ability to breathe for the purposes of incapacitation. “Vascular neck restraint” (also known as lateral neck restraint) is a technique that can be used to incapacitate individuals by restricting the flow of blood to their brain.