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Critical Incident Quick Reference:

What constitutes a critical incident?

Any sudden event involving a police officer that results in an immediate investigation with no advanced notice to the subject officer and potentially resulting in the arrest, suspension, or termination of the subject officer.

Examples:

- Officer involved shootings
- In-custody deaths
- Use of force/weapons discharge (including less-than-lethal force)
- Car accidents
- Any allegation of duty-related criminal conduct

4 Things you NEVER do:

- NEVER give a voluntary statement
- NEVER take a polygraph
- NEVER give blood, urine or take a breathalyzer
- NEVER talk to crisis response team, victim advocate, debriefing team, peer groups, or anyone unless you have a legally confidential relationship with that person.

If a supervisor questions an officer about potential criminal or administrative misconduct, the officer has the absolute right to consult with an FOP Critical Incident Attorney before making any statement, oral or written, including reports, regarding any matter that could lead to disciplinary action. If ordered to give a statement without your requested representative, read the following (preferably on tape):

"I have been refused the right to have a representative of my choice. I understand that I am being ordered to make a report or answer questions and if I do not comply with that order, I may be disciplined for insubordination. Therefore, I have no alternative but to abide by the order. However, by so doing, I do not waive my constitutional rights to remain silent or any of my other rights afforded to me by law."

Things you should always do when involved in a critical incident:

- Secure the scene and preserve evidence
- Notify dispatch and supervisor(s)
- Notify EMS
- Contact a FOP Critical Incident Attorney and REMAIN SILENT

Things you should always do if you are an uninvolved officer at the scene of a critical incident:

- Make sure the involved officer is OK
- Assist involved officer in contacting a FOP Critical Incident Attorney
- Stand by the involved officer until his/her representative/attorney arrives
- Do NOT talk about the facts with the involved officer
- Provide the representative/attorney with as much information as possible
- Remind the involved officer to REMAIN SILENT.

In case of a critical incident, FOP Federal Lodge 12 recommends the Law Office of Saku E. Ethir.

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