



# 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team

# 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District C.I.R.T.

- ▶ Peace officer actions leading to injury or death investigations protocol



- ▶ (1) Each police department, sheriff's office, and district attorney within the state shall develop protocols for participating in a multi-agency team, which shall include at least one other police department or sheriff's office, or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, in conducting any investigation, evaluation, and review of an incident involving the discharge of a firearm by a peace officer that resulted in injury or death, or other use of force by a peace officer that resulted in death. The law enforcement agencies participating need not be from the same judicial district.



- ▶ (2) Each law enforcement agency shall post the protocol on its website or, if it does not have a website, make it publicly available upon request. The protocols required by this section shall be completed and implemented by December 31, 2015.

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## ► Who We Are

► The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is a multi-agency investigative team within the 18th Judicial District. Our team is composed of highly trained investigators from partnering law enforcement agencies, including:

- • Aurora Police Department
- • Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
- • Littleton Police Department
- • Englewood Police Department
- • Greenwood Village Police Department
- • Glendale Police Department
- • 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Investigations Unit



## ► Our Purpose

► CIRT was established to ensure independent, thorough, and transparent investigations following critical incidents involving law enforcement, including:

- • Officer-involved shootings
- • In-custody deaths
- • Other critical uses of force resulting in serious bodily injury or death



## How the Process Works

- Evidence Collection
- Investigators gather body camera footage, physical evidence, and witness statements.
- Forensic experts from outside the involved agency secure the scene to preserve accuracy.
- Officer Interviews
- The officer involved is interviewed by CIRT investigators under strict guidelines. These interviews are voluntary but can become formal if evidence suggests possible criminal conduct
- District Attorney Review
- When all the facts are collected, the full case file is presented to District Attorney Amy Padden.
- The DA—not the police—decides whether the officer's actions were legally justified or whether charges should be filed.

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### Our Role

- Fact-Finding Only: CIRT investigators are charged with gathering objective evidence and documenting the facts of the Use of force incident.
- Not Policy Review: It is not within CIRT's scope to evaluate or critique an agency's internal policies, procedures, or training standards.
- No Determination of Justification: CIRT does not offer opinions or legal conclusions regarding whether an officer's actions were justified.

### What Happens Next

Once CIRT's investigation is complete, the findings are turned over to the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office. It is the District Attorney who reviews the evidence and makes the final legal determination on whether the force was reasonable or if charges are warranted for any criminal conduct.

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## ► Why This Matters

### ► The CIRT process promotes:



► Transparency – ensuring that facts are independently examined and communicated.



► Accountability – providing an impartial investigation process separate from the involved agency.



► Community Trust – reinforcing public confidence that incidents involving law enforcement are reviewed fairly and thoroughly.

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► C.R.S. Section 20-1-114



► (1) The district attorney shall, if no criminal charges are filed following the completion of an investigation pursuant to section 16-2.5-301, C.R.S., release a report and publicly disclose the report explaining the district attorney's findings, including the basis for the decision not to

► charge the officer with any criminal conduct. The district attorney shall post the written report on its website or, if it does not have a website, make it publicly available upon request.



► (2) If the district attorney refers the matter under investigation to the grand jury, the district attorney shall release a statement at the time the matter is referred to the grand jury disclosing the general

► purpose of the grand jury's investigation. If no true bill is returned, the grand jury shall issue and publish a report.



► (3) All disclosures required by this section remain subject to the criminal justice records act.