



## ACADEMY CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION

TO: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department  
FROM: Director Gail McCant, Office of Police Oversight  
DATE: Thursday, July 10, 2025  
SUBJECT: BPOC Chapter 9: Code of Criminal Procedure

Dear Chief Davis:

The Office of Police Oversight (OPO) is collaborating with the Educational Development Unit of the Austin Police Department (APD) to enhance the academy's curriculum. OPO's Policy Compliance Consultant is a member of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), which is responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and providing feedback for improvement.

In addition to the subject matter experts hired by APD, the OPO has reviewed APD's curriculum for the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and provided the following recommendations for improvement:

### **BPOC (Basic Peace Officer Course) Chapter 9- Code of Criminal Procedure**

**Course Goal: This unit covers sections of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) that are not covered in other sections.**

**1. Outdated General Orders and Instructor Source Materials—Several APD General Orders used in the instructor's curriculum are outdated and should be corrected to ensure cadets are being taught the most updated, relevant information.**

- **Slide 13: Use of Force:**

The slide references General Order #200.1.3 "Duty to Intercede" dated March 31, 2012, which is outdated. The updated General Order is #200.1.3 "Duty to Intervene," which contains updated policy language.

**Other outdated General Orders referenced in Instructor Materials:**

- General Order #200.3 "Response to Resistance" is now General Order #200.4 and should reflect updated language concerning neck restraints and strangleholds.
- General Order #200.6.2 "Duty to Give Aid and Medical Care" also contains outdated policy language and needs to be revised in the lesson plan.

**2. Questionable Source Material—The lesson plan includes additional source materials whose credibility and relevance are questionable. These are not required sources and should be removed.**



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- **Texas Marital Law Reference Material:**  
The lesson plan cites a 2018 blog post by a private attorney on Texas marital law. It's unclear why this was selected, and its relevance to the curriculum is questionable.
- **Domestic Violence Reference Material:**  
A 2015 article about the domestic violence movement of the 1970s is used. This reference lacks relevance to current laws and contemporary training objectives.

**3. Outdated Legal References- The source for the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure language is not current. A source that is updated with the current CCP language should be used. Example: Texas Constitution and Statutes website (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov>)**

- **Code of Criminal Procedure:**  
The instructor's curriculum cites the Texas District & County Attorneys Association website, dated 2019 to 2021, as the source for the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure language.

**4. Content in Visual Materials—The PowerPoint uses images from the Austin 2020 protests as an example of riots. OPO recommends that these images be removed.**

- **Duties of officers relating to suppression of riots and other disturbances (Slides # 36, 38, 39, 40):**  
The PowerPoint includes images from the 2020 Austin protests to illustrate riots. Given the controversy and ongoing litigation, using these images without contextual notes is problematic. Clear and objective guidance should accompany any such material to ensure appropriate instruction.

The Office of Police Oversight appreciates the chance to offer constructive feedback on the Austin Police Department's academy curriculum, recognizing that there is room for improvement. We look forward to ongoing collaboration on current and future curriculum development to ensure continuous improvement and effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Gail McCant

Director, Office of Police Oversight