

Steven Jimerfield
One-On-One Control Tactics, LLC
PO Box 6157
Vancouver, WA 98668

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Steven Jimerfield, Cpl. Alaska State Troopers, Retired. Prior to retirement and the last seven years of my career, I served as staff instructor at the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka, Alaska. I am a 27 year veteran Police Officer. While at the Public Safety Training Academy I was staff instructor in Self Defense, Baton, OC Pepper Spray and the Use of Force. I have been certified in the Alaska courts as an expert in the use and application of Use of Force.

This letter is in reference to the spraying of persons who are trained and certified in the use and application of OC Pepper Spray. Persons who go through the OC Pepper Spray course are required to be sprayed at the end of the course so they can attest to the effects of OC Pepper Spray. The purpose of being sprayed relates to the Use of Force in two ways:

1. To have firsthand knowledge of the effects of OC on a subject having experienced it themselves.
2. Should a suspect be in possession, or take an officers OC and be sprayed, the officer will be able to justify his escalation of force due to his own experience with OC, knowing he may not be able to defend himself.

When students initially go through an academy and/or a department's OC training and can prove they were certified and sprayed, they should not be sprayed again. A person is required to be sprayed a second time with OC only if he or she is to be instructor certified. When a person has experienced the effects of OC for the first time when being certified to carry and the use of OC, there is no justification for them to be sprayed again. They can be retrained (certified) but should not be sprayed a second time.

Throughout my career as a defensive tactics instructor in the U.S., Canada, Europe and the West Indies, I have never heard of a person being sprayed a second time, after the initial spraying, especially following that person(s) involvement in a Use of Force incident with OC. It is my professional opinion that this is more along the lines of punishment not retraining!!

I have consulted with a few of my colleagues around the United States on this subject to confirm that the standard is not to require a second OC spraying unless he or she will be certified as an OC Instructor. The following police trainers concur; a recertification or retraining does not warrant a second spraying with OC and believe this occurrence seems more punishment that retraining. To the best of their knowledge, these officers are not aware of any departments or academies in their states spraying OC a second time.

Trooper Barret Ching, Washington State Patrol, Defensive Tactics Instructor; Sgt. Stephen Vaughn, Tallahassee Police Department, Florida, Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor at Pat Thomas Training Center in Havana, Florida; Capt. Tim Kuth, Lowell Police Department, Arkansas, Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor, NW Arkansas Training Academy; Officer Mark Tolbert, Topeka Police Department, Kansas, Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor; Officer Kasey Keckeisen, Mounds Police Department, Minnesota, Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor, Lead Swat Team Self-Defense Tactics Instructor State of Minnesota.

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