



To: Southern California Training Managers

From: Adept Training Group

Date: 05/03/2026

Subject: Real World De-Escalation - 2 hour block

Course Overview

Since the passage of AB 392, “de-escalation” has become a central focus of law enforcement and probation training. Agencies have rapidly expanded instruction in strategies such as tactical communication, active listening, and verbal persuasion. While these techniques are valuable, de-escalation is often presented as something an officer *does to a subject*, rather than what it truly represents—a *desired outcome achieved through a range of lawful and reasonable actions*.

Real World De-Escalation is an interactive, reality-based course designed to bridge the gap between policy language, training expectations, and field application. This class challenges traditional framing by emphasizing that de-escalation does not always rely solely on communication. Instead, it includes physical, lawful, and demonstrable officer actions when verbal efforts have failed or are no longer viable.

Participants will explore how to recognize breakdowns in communication, transition to appropriate physical control measures, and most importantly, how to articulate and legally defend those actions under the standards established by AB 392 and Penal Code 835a.

Connection to Theme: Strengthening Our Foundation

This course directly supports the theme of “Strengthening Our Foundation” by reinforcing the legal and tactical principles that guide real-world decision-making in high-risk encounters. A strong operational foundation requires officers and supervisors to understand not only de-escalation theory, but also how de-escalation is defined in law, policy, and practice. By grounding tactical responses in legal defensibility under PC 835a, this training strengthens officer confidence, decision-making, and accountability in the field.

Learning Objectives

By the conclusion of this 2-hour session, participants will be able to:

1. **Identify and discuss the legal mandate of de-escalation** as it pertains to **Penal Code 835a**, including statutory expectations for reasonable force decision-making.
 2. **Identify demonstrable physical actions that support de-escalation outcomes**, and discuss the legal defensibility of those actions as they relate to **Penal Code 835a** and AB 392 standards.
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Instructional Approach

This course is designed to be practical, discussion-driven, and rooted in real-world application. Instructional methods include:

- **Scenario-Based Discussion:** Participants analyze field-based encounters where communication has failed and identify lawful escalation and de-escalation points.
- **Tactical Decision-Making Review:** Exploration of physical control options as part of a broader de-escalation continuum.
- **Legal Articulation Exercises:** Practice in explaining and defending use-of-force decisions using statutory language from AB 392 and PC 835a.
- **Facilitated Roundtable Dialogue:** Sharing of agency experiences, challenges, and interpretations of de-escalation policy and practice.

Target Audience

- Probation Officers (Juvenile and Adult)
 - Supervising Probation Officers
 - Training Managers and Instructors
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Instructor Information

Chris Sanchez

Chris Sanchez is a currently active probation officer with 20 years of experience in a Southern California probation department. He has over 15 years of instructional experience and has worked extensively in both juvenile and adult field supervision. His field background includes specialized assignments in gangs and narcotics task forces. Chris brings extensive expertise in Use of Force and Constitutional Law and has expanded his instructional work into Instructor Development, training personnel across multiple California probation departments. He is currently assigned full-time to his agency's training unit, where he provides instruction to both field and institutional staff across a wide range of topics.

Chris DeCoudres

Chris DeCoudres has 20 years of experience in the probation field, beginning in juvenile supervision across informal, formal, and placement caseloads. He has served on multi-agency gang enforcement and Post Release Accountability and Compliance teams, and has spent the past decade as a supervisor overseeing Post Release Community Supervision, Mandatory Supervision, and adult probation caseloads. Chris is a certified instructor in De-Escalation, Use of Force reporting, Weaponless Self-Defense, Rapid Containment Baton, PC 832 Arrest and Control, Weapon Retention, and Defensive Tactics. He is recognized for delivering practical, skills-based training that emphasizes real-world application.

Tim Goodwyn

Tim Goodwyn has 23 years of experience in the probation field, including work in juvenile institutions, field supervision of both juvenile and adult caseloads, and assignments on sex offender and gang task forces. For the past 12 years, he has served as a supervisor with experience in collaborative courts, task force oversight, and training program leadership. He currently serves as a training supervisor overseeing field training and armed force options programs. Tim is a certified range instructor, simunition force-on-force instructor, taser instructor, defensive tactics instructor, and primary arming academy instructor, and is responsible for delivering instruction across multiple high-liability training areas.

Expected Outcomes

Participants will leave this session with:

- A clearer understanding of de-escalation as an **outcome rather than a singular tactic**
 - Improved ability to identify and apply lawful physical actions during escalating encounters
 - Increased confidence in articulating use-of-force decisions under **PC 835a standards**
 - Practical tools to strengthen agency-wide training and field application
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Conclusion

Real-world encounters rarely unfold in a linear or purely verbal manner. **Real World De-Escalation** provides a grounded, practical framework for understanding how lawful physical intervention, communication, and decision-making work together to achieve safe and effective outcomes. By aligning training with statutory expectations and operational reality, this course strengthens the foundation of probation practice and enhances officer readiness in dynamic field environments.