


SOLANO COUNTY CALIFORNIA PROBATION DEPARTMENT	POLICY NUMBER: 606	EFFECTIVE DATE: April 17, 2016
	SUPERSEDES: June 30, 2007	
APPROVED BY:  CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER	TITLE: USE OF CHEMICAL AGENT	

1. **Policy** It is the policy of the Solano County Probation Department ("Department") that chemical agents may be used in the circumstances set forth in the Use of Force policy.

For purposes of this policy, probation officer includes all sworn peace officer classifications, including Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Services Manager, as well as field group counselors.

2. **Chemical Agent Authorized for Use**

- A. Oleoresin Capsicum spray ("OC spray") issued by the Solano County Probation Department. No other chemical agent is authorized by the Department.

3. **Procedures**

- A. Probation officer carrying OC spray will be trained in the use of OC spray and successfully complete a departmental Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) certified OC spray class.
- B. OC spray shall be used only in the manner presented and demonstrated during the chemical agent certification course.
- C. Prior to the use of a chemical agent, the probation officer should give clear verbal instructions to the subject regarding expected compliance, when feasible. Prior to dispensing the OC spray, the probation officer will verbally warn the individual that OC spray will be deployed, when feasible.
- D. Utilizing OC spray is considered to be a use of force and it shall only be used in accordance with the Use of Force policy (Policy #602).
- E. If for any reason it is necessary for the probation officer to leave the immediate area once the chemical agent has been deployed, the probation officer shall radio Sheriff Dispatch for assistance and remain in a safe location until assistance arrives.

4. Treatment for OC Spray Exposure

- A. If safe to do so, persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC spray should be immediately decontaminated and promptly provided with fresh air and clean water (if available) to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects, such as persistent eye burning and difficulty breathing after 30 minutes shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

5. Post-Application Notice

- A. Whenever OC spray has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle, or other enclosed area, probation officer should provide the owners or occupants with notice (Attachment A) of the potential presence of residue that could result in irritation if the area is not cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that clean-up will be at the occupant's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

6. Reporting

- A. When OC spray is used, the probation staff involved must complete an Incident Report in accordance with the Incident Report policy (Policy #614) and submit the report to their supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the next working day. An entry will be made on the Arrest and Detention Form (under medical problems) to alert jail/juvenile hall/ medical staff that the subject has been exposed to chemical agents.

- 7. **Exceptions** Any exceptions to the provisions set forth in this policy shall require prior written approval from the Chief Probation Officer.