



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Major James Morgan Jr. Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

www.leoncountysos.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Javonni Hampton

Date: August 4, 2026

The Leon County Sheriff's Office has released Dissecting De-escalation

The Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has released Dissecting De-escalation: A Collaborative Research Initiative, the result of a three-year research partnership with the Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice examining how de-escalation occurs during real-world law enforcement encounters.

The report moves beyond policy and training by analyzing hundreds of body-worn camera recordings through a structured behavioral coding process. The research identifies communication and decision-making strategies associated with successful de-escalation.

Researchers found that deputies who used more de-escalation techniques were significantly more likely to resolve encounters without force. The study also found that specialized de-escalation training changed deputy behavior in the field and identified specific techniques that consistently improved outcomes, including giving individuals a voice, separating them from sources of agitation and providing clear explanations.

"Effective de-escalation strengthens trust between law enforcement and the community while helping create safer outcomes for everyone involved," said Sheriff Walt McNeil. "This research allows us to better understand what works in real-world encounters and use those findings to continue improving how we serve the people of Leon County."

The project was supported in part by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). It is intended to serve as a resource for law enforcement agencies, researchers, policymakers and community stakeholders interested in evidence-based policing.

The complete report is available at www.leoncountysos.com. Organizations interested in learning more about the project or requesting a presentation on the findings may contact Captain James Pittman at James.Pittman@LeonFLSheriff.gov.



Javonni Hampton, Public Information Officer
Office (850) 296-5260

Javonni.hampton@leonflsheriff.gov

[@LeonSheriff](https://twitter.com/LeonSheriff)

facebook.com/leonflso/

Page 1 of 1

