

## **IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS:**

**\*Remember to fill out your critical information card and place it in your badge case. NYSPOA has provided ALL of its members with a critical information card**

**\*Keep abreast of your County's "Critical Incident Guidelines". If you don't have guidelines be part of implementing them.**

**\*"STAY ALERT" when in the office and in the field for your protection AND other officers.**

**\*NEVER become too comfortable with an offender or your surroundings.**

**\*Remain consistent with your training, improve your skills each and every year and practice your firearm, defensive tactic and verbal, skills.**

**\*Wear law enforcement appropriate clothing. Avoid ties that are not clip-on's and don't**

**wear jewelry that may be stolen from you or used to harm you.**

**\*Keep personal photos off your desk, have an unlisted phone number and do not drive your personal vehicle for fieldwork if at all possible.**

**\*Escort your offenders by letting them walk in front of you and instruct them as where to go. Do not turn your back on any offender.**

**\*Look over each an every offender BEFORE you take them back to your office or enter their home(s). Where are their hands? What's in their pockets? What's in their bags? You should try and know the answer to those questions.**

**\*DON'T do the office or home visits if you see or sense a problem. Call for back up. Walk away alive.**

**\*CLEAR your desk of staplers, hole punchers, coffee cups and anything else that can be used as a weapon against you.**

**\*KNOW your exits in the field and in the office.**



# **NYSPOA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

**DEFENDING  
OURSELVES IN  
THE INTEREST OF  
JUSTICE**

## **NYSPOA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

**The NYSPOA Legal Defense Fund is here for you when you use Deadly Physical Force as defined by Article 35 of the Criminal Procedure Law.**

**\*Our profession is one in which protecting the community and informing the courts about relevant information regarding our offenders has made dramatic changes in the last one hundred years. Whether we carry firearms or not, we are subjected to the same scrutiny as other law enforcement officials. The community's view and their expectations of us are that as a law enforcement entity. NYSPOA has adapted to that change by protecting their membership with the Legal Defense Fund.**

**\*Although we are only prepared to cover one incident per year, the more money we raise, more memberships we get and the more merchandise we sell, the more people and incidents we can cover. This is just the beginning in what we hope will be an ongoing and**

**growing source of representation and support from NYSPOA.**



### **THE PROCEDURE:**

**\*The Legal Defense Fund covers all current NYSPOA members who are Probation Officers, Senior Probation Officers or Probation Supervisors.**

**\*If there is a critical incident and you are involved, remember what training has instilled in all of us:**

**The first 24-48 hours are the most important.**

**\*For now, NYSPOA will cover the legal fees for those first 48 hours or up to \$1500.00 and one incident per year, statewide.**

**\*You will need an attorney. Hopefully, your county will provide one to represent YOU. If not, we are here for you.**

**\*Contact the attorney of your choice. NYSPOA does not designate whom you prefer to represent you.**

**\*Contact your NYSPOA regional representative (make sure you know who that is) or contact any NYSPOA Board member. Inform them of the incident, name your attorney and we will take over from there. We will contact your attorney, secure the police report if any, fax a form to your attorney to fill out, review the matter with the Legal Defense Fund Review Board and then we will submit payment.**

**\*All matters will remain confidential. We will not ask for any information other than that, which is included in the police report.**

**\*At present we can only cover one incident per year statewide. Emergency appropriations may be made with the NYSPOA Boards approval.**

**\*Remember to keep your dues up to date and know who your regional Vice President(s) is.**