

# Adaptive Decision-Making For Law Enforcement



February 24, 2021 | 0800-1700 | \$179

**Hamilton Township Police Department**  
7780 South State Route 48, Maineville, OH 45039

## Who should attend:

Sworn officers who want to improve their emotion intelligence and decision-making skills.

## Description:

The law enforcement environment can often be described as one that is a non-linear, open-loop system, that happens at light-speed. One where time can be either friend or foe. Operating in this environment creates stress which affects decision-making. Within this time-compressed environment officers often feel they need to act because they are there, rather than allowing the circumstances of a call determine the urgency to act.

The question is how to provide a strategy for officer's to effectively control the stress response and to make lawful and ethical decisions? The answer is two-fold: with 1) Emotional Intelligence and 2) the use of thinking and mental models.

Emotional Intelligence helps in reducing the stress caused by non-linear, uncertain events. Being able to regulate emotions allows officers to make better decisions. The use of thinking and mental models (OODA, Cynefin, Adaptive Decision-making model) assists the officer in their sensemaking and decision-making capabilities. Attendees are taught to make decisions based on urgency or the need to take an action and within the Constitutional framework of the 4th Amendment. These components are a great compliment to any de-escalation strategy.

You will leave this class as a stronger by learning:

- ◆ How Emotional Intelligence creates resilient, compassionate and respectful police officers.
- ◆ The Adaptive Decision-making Model.
- ◆ How mental models help or hinder the decision-making process.
- ◆ The Cynefin Sensemaking Model.
- ◆ How a spectrum strategy assists in managing time.
- ◆ Understand the role bias plays in decision-making.

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## Instructor:

Thomas Dworak is a retired Sergeant (31 years) from a suburban Chicago police department where he was the Field Training and Evaluation Program Coordinator and the Lead Defensive Tactics/Use of Force Instructor. Thom facilitates training throughout the country in Field Training, Emotional Intelligence, Leadership and is a core instructor for Below 100. He holds the position of adjunct faculty at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy at the College of Du Page providing instruction to recruits in defensive tactics and scenario-based training. Thom is a court recognized expert in police practices and use of force. He is a member of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA), an annual ILEETA conference presenter and the Instructor Development Section Editor for the ILEETA Journal. Follow Thom on Twitter @dworakt

**It is not the strongest that survive, but those who can adapt.**

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