

LAW ENFORCEMENT RISK REVIEW PROCESS



The North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Law Enforcement Risk Review Process is a program designed to assess a police department's adherence to best practices, court decisions, and policies and procedures related to high-liability activities in law enforcement. The goal is to mitigate liability exposures, enhance officer safety, and validate that training and operating procedures meet industry standards. It is FREE for members of the NCLM Property & Casualty Trust.

The North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police supports the risk review. It is designed and continually peer-reviewed in collaboration with the NCLM Chief Advisory Committee, representing Police Chiefs across North Carolina's law enforcement agencies. The Risk Review contains over forty risk categories, each developed with prioritized risk dimensions used for evaluation. The process specifically addresses adherence to best practices related to policy, training, supervision, performance management, and oversight. The Risk Review is not intended to be a version of accreditation or a replacement but to work in unison with accreditation programs.

The Review Process

1. Initial Risk Review Presentation

NCLM staff meets with the municipality's Manager and Police Chief to review the process categories and dimensions.

2. Agency Internal Review

This internal review process allows the agency to make any changes needed to meet the best-practices category dimensions. Its length depends on the on the department's pace.

3. NCLM Policy Review

The municipality submits its policies and category alignments to NCLM staff for review. This portion takes place off-site.

4. NCLM Site Operations Survey

This survey includes an officer ride-along and critical personnel interviews, site review and survey, policy-practice validation for 1-2 days.

5. Final Validation

Upon completion of the self-audit, NCLM off- and on-site reviews and surveys, and any final policy revisions, NCLM staff will present a plaque to the Manager and Police Chief before the City or Town Council. Media release provided.

TESTIMONIALS

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“The business of policing is ever evolving, and the need for risk management in this profession has never been more important. Evaluating and mitigating risk is a duty we owe to our officers, our local leaders, and the public we serve. It is a weighty responsibility that many police executives struggle to effectively address. Over the last several years, our agency has taken extensive measures to fulfill this obligation to our stakeholders by revising policies, increasing training, pursuing accreditation, and embracing the best practices of our profession. An integral part of our mitigation strategy has been the NCLM Law Enforcement Risk Review. Even with CALEA credentials and various awards under our belt, NCLM’s Risk Review helped us to identify and strengthen other areas of potential exposure. All agencies – regardless of size, service area, or current accolades – will benefit from this free service. I strongly encourage my colleagues to consider engaging NCLM’s team of assessors to undergo this process. Whether you’re a new chief in a small agency or a seasoned leader in a large organization, the Law Enforcement Risk Review can help you minimize threats to your people and community.”

Chief Lawrence Capps | Knightdale Police Department



“The NCLM Risk Reduction Review is a comprehensive assessment of the high liability areas we all operate in. It is the smartest and simplest way to lower risk, limit liability, and improve the overall professionalism within your department. I cannot more strongly encourage every North Carolina Chief to open their policies to this level of review. It will only make you better prepared to withstand the challenges inherent to this profession. The NCLM Risk Reduction Review is like wearing your seatbelt. You wear it to protect yourself in a crash, not pretend a crash won’t ever happen. Do it today!”

Chief Blair Myhand | Hendersonville Police Department

TESTIMONIALS

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“The North Carolina League of Municipalities offers the Law Enforcement Risk Review Process for any department member of the League. It is a great program for Police Agencies in today’s climate. The assessment process guides each department in reviewing its high liability areas and ensures the agency operates at recognized professional standards. The League staff works with the agency’s officers and employees to ensure that the department is successful in the review process.

Tom Anderson and Joe Graziano are to be commended for their assistance with this program. After the Risk Review Process, the League offers to recognize the participating agency in front of their city council. This communicates to city leaders and community members that the department is being reviewed by an outside agency, which helps to promote confidence that the agency is meeting the standards set for the law enforcement profession.”

Chief Brent Phelps | Lenoir Police Department



“Our department has gone through the North Carolina League of Municipalities Risk Review process for an initial assessment and for a periodic review. Each process has been important for our agency to review best practices, ensure that policies and procedures are current, and to evaluate the operations of our department. Working with the staff at the North Carolina League of Municipalities while undergoing the Risk Review has been effortless and enjoyable. I strongly recommend the Risk Review process for agencies to reduce liability, test the efficiency of operating procedures, and ensuring that policies and procedures are up to date and relevant.”

Chief Phillip Voorhees | Surf City Police Department