

**Law on Penitentiary Service** Հ Օ-160-Ն (official publication at Հ Հ ՊՏ 2005.08.17/52(424) Հ ռ ղ . 991) adopted on 8 July 2005, entered into force on 27 December 2005, updated version as of July 2015.

**Article 47. Use of Physical Force, Special Means and Firearms by a penitentiary officer** (last amended in 8 April 2008)

1. In case of not complying with the lawful orders of penitentiary officers or obstructing fulfillment of his duties, a penitentiary officer has the right to use physical force, special means or firearms in cases provided for in this law.
2. Penitentiary officer has the right to use individual protection means to secure personal safety.
3. The type, form, model and quantity of arms, special and self-defense means necessary for the fulfillment of duties of a penitentiary officer are defined by the Government of Armenia.

**Article 48. Use of Physical Force by a penitentiary officer**

Penitentiary officer has the right to use physical force in any instance of failure of a person kept in a penitentiary institution to comply with lawful orders or obstructing the fulfillment of duties of the penitentiary officer.

**Article 51. Conditions and limits of the use of physical force, special means and firearms**

*(Article 51 was edited on 7 April 2009 by Law Հ Օ-93-Ն)*

1. Penitentiary officer has the right to use physical force, special means and firearms in cases provided in Articles 48-50 of this Law, if other means do not ensure fulfillment of the duties vested on him.
2. When applying physical force, special means and firearms a penitentiary officer has to:
  - 1) warn about the intent to use them and provide the person in question with sufficient time to comply with his demands, except for cases when delay creates immediate danger to the life or health of a penitentiary officer, or when such warning is impossible under given circumstances.
  - 2) to use them proportionately to the nature and degree of a danger of a violation or resistance.
  - 3) to provide first aid to persons who have sustained bodily harm.
3. In case of the use of physical force, special means and firearms a penitentiary officer shall immediately report to his superior, and in all instances of the use of firearms he shall also report to a prosecutor.

The Head of the Penitentiary Department or a public official who is Officer-in-Charge immediately notifies relevant bodies of the health system and the Prosecutor's Office about all cases of causing bodily harm or death as a result of the use of physical force, special means and firearms.

Use of physical force, special means and firearms coupled with abuse of power leads to accountability stipulated in law.