

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE Aug. 01, 1987	NUMBER 3.05
	REVISED Sep. 30, 2015	TOTAL PAGES 6
Interacting with Persons in Mental Health Crisis		



I. Definitions

A. Elopement

A term used by the mental health system to describe when a person has left a mental health facility or general hospital emergency department before being evaluated by a psychiatrist, after being taken there due to a need for emergency hospitalization as documented by a completed Pink Slip or due to the need for court-ordered treatment of a mentally ill person as documented by a temporary order of detention from the appropriate Probate Court.

B. Mental *Illness*

A substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ***the*** ability to meet the ordinary demands of life.

C. *Pink Slip*

A familiar name given to the Application for Emergency Admission, form DMH-MedR-1030, created by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to document the probable cause for an emergency hospitalization.

II. Policy Statements

- A. Sworn personnel shall take into custody and transport a ***person with a mental illness*** whenever there is a court order granting authority to do so. When the court order grants that authority to a foreign agency, sworn personnel shall detain the ***person*** and contact that foreign agency to request that they respond and take custody. When the foreign agency will not respond, or cannot respond in a timely manner, the individual should be transported to a mental health facility for admission under emergency hospitalization.
- B. ***Ohio Revised Code*** (ORC) Section 5122.10, ***Emergency Hospitalization***, grants law enforcement personnel the authority to take a ***person with a mental illness*** into custody to ensure the safety of the ***person*** and others. Under this authority, sworn Division personnel shall take into custody and transport to a mental health facility or hospital for a mental health evaluation any ***person*** who, ***due to the person's mental illness***:
1. Represents a substantial risk of physical harm to self as evidenced by threats of or attempts at suicide or serious self-inflicted bodily harm;

2. Represents a substantial risk of physical harm to others as evidenced by recent homicidal or violent behavior, recent threats that place another in fear of serious physical harm, or other evidence of present dangerousness;
3. Represents a substantial and immediate risk of serious physical impairment or injury to self due to the individual's inability or failure to provide for basic physical needs which cannot be made immediately available; or,
4. Is in need of treatment in a hospital for the mental illness due to behavior that creates a grave and imminent risk to the rights of others or the individual.

Note: Sworn Division personnel shall not take someone into custody for emergency hospitalization using ORC Section 5122.01(B)(5). That subsection of the statute requires action by the appropriate Probate Court.

- C. When available, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers should respond to calls for service **involving persons with a mental illness, persons in a mental health crisis, persons who have attempted suicide, or persons who** are threatening suicide.
1. **When at the scene, CIT officers and supervisors should be responsible for handling the call for service involving a person with a mental illness or a person attempting or threatening suicide due to their additional training and experience. Other responding officers or supervisors should defer to the CIT-trained officer unless there are extenuating circumstances or a need for some other form of expertise, such as a hostage negotiator.**
 2. CIT officers should request a supervisor's approval before responding to calls for service off their assigned precinct **unless dispatched or assigned by Communications Bureau personnel**. Also refer to the "Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)" directive for barricaded individuals.
- D. **Persons with a mental illness or persons in a mental health crisis** being charged with an offense should be processed as any other prisoner.
1. For a felony offense, ensure investigative personnel are informed **as soon as practical** of the **person's** mental illness **or the belief that the person has a mental illness due to observed signs and symptoms of mental illness**. Remain with the individual until told how to proceed by investigating personnel.
 2. For a misdemeanor offense, issue a summons or file a warrant when the **person is being** admitted for a mental health evaluation.

E. Sworn personnel responding to a call for service at a mental health facility or hospital emergency department shall assess the situation and determine the appropriate action as outlined below:

1. Elopement

a. Sworn personnel shall contact someone from the facility and verify that a Pink Slip has been completed or that a temporary order of detention is in effect before searching for the person unless there is an immediate threat of harm to that person, or others.

b. If the provisions in II,E,1,a, are not met, responding officers will not take a person into custody without making an independent determination that the person fits the criteria for an emergency hospitalization. Personnel can use information from other sources to develop and substantiate probable cause.

2. Disturbance or some other call involving a breach of the peace

a. Sworn personnel shall only maintain the peace and address criminal offenses as applicable and observed or reported.

b. Sworn personnel shall not assist facility staff with the use of mechanical restraints, the administration of drugs, or any other form of treatment.

F. Sworn personnel may transport *persons with a mental illness* from a mental health facility or hospital **emergency department to another mental health facility or hospital **emergency department** only when **all** of the following apply:**

1. At the time of *arrival*, the *person* is exhibiting violent behavior and/or making threats that place others in fear of physical harm, **or evidence can be presented to responding officers to show that the person is likely going to exhibit violent behavior to the extent that other persons present will be subjected to physical harm.**

2. The transport is directly from a facility in the City of Columbus to *another* facility located in the City of Columbus.

3. Pre-arrangements have been made between the two facilities **and the receiving facility will take the person being transported without question.**

4. The requesting facility has no alternative method of safely transporting the individual.

5. A PTV or two-officer unit completes the transport.

6. A sworn supervisor approves the request.

III. Procedures

- A. For **persons with a mental illness or persons in a mental health crisis** who do not meet the criteria for emergency hospitalization under Section II,B, do one of the following:
1. Refer a family member or the **person** to a mental health facility. **When the person is a juvenile, contact one of the facilities listed in Section III,D,2.**
 2. Refer a family member to **Netcare to request assistance from** the Probate Pre-Screeners.
 3. Request the **person's** consent to be transported to a mental health center or hospital **emergency department** for evaluation.
 - a. If consent is granted, transport the individual following procedures in Section III,D.
- B. For **persons with a mental illness or persons in a mental health crisis** who meet the criteria for emergency hospitalization under Section II,B do the following:
1. Explain all of the following to the individual:
 - a. **Sworn officer's** name, rank, and **employment with the Columbus Division of Police**;
 - b. **That the person is being taken** into custody **for emergency hospitalization** and is not **being placed under** arrest;
 - c. The name of the facility to which the **person** is being transported; and
 - d. That the transport is for an examination by mental health professionals.
 2. Take the **person** into custody in the least conspicuous manner possible.
 3. Complete a Pink Slip.
 4. Transport the individual following the procedures in Section III,D.
- C. Completing and **processing a** Pink Slip:
1. List the circumstances and reasons that the **person** was taken into custody in the statement of belief section. Include the following:
 - a. How **sworn personnel** came into contact with the **person**.
 - b. Symptoms of mental illness reported by the **person** or witnesses.
 - c. Signs of mental illness observed by **sworn personnel** or reported by witnesses.
 - d. Risk assessment statements, including any of the following:
 - (1) Current intent **to harm him or herself or others to include** available plans and/or means.
 - (2) **Any** history of suicidal or homicidal tendencies **or previous actions to include the method and outcome.**
 - (3) Prior treatment for mental illness **and outcome.**
 - e. A conclusion supporting the need for the **person** to be evaluated at a mental health facility.

2. **Ensure that all blocks on the form are completed to include the signature on the second page.**
 3. Present the Pink Slip when **submitting** the **person for admission** to the mental health facility or hospital **emergency department**.
- D. Transporting **persons with a mental illness or persons in a mental health crisis**
1. Transport adults to one of the following:
 - a. **The Netcare Access facility at either 199 South Central Avenue or 741 East Broad Street.**
 - b. **Any hospital emergency department** when the Netcare facilities are unable to admit the **person**.
 2. Transport juveniles to one of the following:
 - a. **Nationwide Children's Hospital Emergency Department, when the person is 14 years of age or younger. Call the Nationwide Children's Psychiatric Emergency Evaluation Center (PEEC) line at (614) 722-9372 prior to transport. The number is always monitored.**
 - b. **The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC) Emergency Department when the person is 15-17 years of age. Call the OSUWMC Harding Hospital Intake line at (614) 293-8205 prior to transport and choose option 1 when the recording begins. If no response, call the back-up number at (614) 366-0909.**
 3. Complete **an electronic** Aid and Transport **incident** report and contact the Records Unit to have a copy of the report faxed or emailed to the facility.
 4. Remain at the facility until:
 - a. The facility receives a copy of the Aid and Transport **incident** report,
 - b. Any paperwork needed **from sworn personnel** to admit the **person** is completed **and submitted**, and
 - c. The facility accepts custody or responsibility for the **person**.
- E. Responding to information received from a mental health professional of an immediate threat made by a **person with a mental illness** to kill or cause serious physical harm to a known individual.
1. Communications Bureau personnel
 - a. When the threat is not within **the City of** Columbus, notify the appropriate foreign agency.
 - b. When the threat is within **the City of** Columbus:
 - (1) Dispatch sworn personnel to the potential victim's location.
 - (2) Dispatch sworn personnel to the reporting mental health professional's location to complete **the appropriate electronic** incident report.

- (3) Notify the affected precinct sergeant.
- (4) Create a premise file for the address of the potential victim.
 - c. When contacted by the potential victim regarding the threat, dispatch sworn personnel as appropriate.
2. Sworn personnel responding to **a** potential victim's location
 - a. Attempt to locate the potential victim and determine his **or** her well-being.
 - b. If located, notify **the victim** of the threat and provide the incident report number.
 - c. If not located, leave a message **for the victim** to contact the Communications Bureau and include the phone number and incident report number.
 - d. Contact personnel completing the **incident report** and inform **them** of the notification disposition.
3. Sworn personnel dispatched to the mental health professional's location:
 - a. Complete **the appropriate electronic incident report** and include the notification disposition in the report narrative.
 - b. Notify other sworn personnel of any pertinent information as appropriate.
4. Precinct Supervisor
 - a. Notify the zone lieutenant of the threat.
 - b. Monitor the situation.
 - c. Set up guard duty or a **house watch** as necessary.
 - d. Relay the information to the oncoming watch.