

TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effective: June 26, 2015	Subject: Responding to Mental Health Emergencies
Rescinded:	

GENERAL ORDER 0-4-12

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for members of the Cheektowaga Police Department in handling calls involving people suffering from mental illness, and to explain the Cheektowaga Police Department's Crisis Response Team.

Policy:

If the conduct of a person through word, action or deeds warrants an emergency admission to the Erie County Medical Center, the officers will admit that person via 9.41 of the Mental Hygiene Law - "Request for Examination of Person Apparently Mentally Ill" or 22.09 Mental Hygiene Law - "Request for Examination of Person Apparently Incapacitated by Alcohol."

Procedure:

Officers who encounter a subject that meets 9.41 or 22.09 criteria should file the appropriate form with the receiving hospital. A police report will be filed entitled either "Emergency Admission of a Dangerous Person, 9.41 MHL" or "Incapacitated by Alcohol, 22.09 MHL". If the subject volunteers for said admission, the officer may utilize that alternative.

Applicable data will be filled out as best as the officer can under the given circumstances, especially describing the probable cause to believe that the emergency admission is warranted. If a criminal charge has been placed against the subject, the officer(s) will fill out the appropriate section and check off the box for Appearance Ticket Issued or Order of Protection in Force. The arresting officer(s) will immediately notify the hospital that the subject is under arrest and will remain with the subject until he/she is arraigned, turned over to the ECSD, or released on an appearance ticket. When a subject is violent, threatening violence, or in need of emergency medical care, the officer(s) will request an ambulance to respond to transport.

The officers on the scene will attempt to ensure that enough back-up officers are available to successfully subdue and restrain the subject without causing injury to the officers, the subject, or any other civilian parties present.

If the subject is transported by ambulance to the hospital, and the ambulance crew requires an escort, the officers will make some pre-determined communication with the ambulance crew should there be a problem inside the ambulance and it will have to stop. If no ambulance is on the scene, and the officers have to transport the subject, said subject

will be transported as per Department policy governing transporting prisoners. Subjects who are not violent or in need of emergency care may be transported in a patrol vehicle, upon the officer's discretion. A single officer should not transport a subject that is being admitted under Sections 9.41 or 22.09 of the Mental Hygiene Law. Officers must formally transfer custody to either the staff in the CPEP Unit or the emergency room head nurse; they are not to drop the person off in triage without a formal transfer of custody.

The following section explains the Cheektowaga Police Department's Crisis Response Team, which was formed specially to handle subjects suffering from mental health emergencies.

Purpose:

In order to provide the highest level of assistance to emotionally disturbed persons within the Town of Cheektowaga, the police department has developed a Crisis Response Team (CRT). The team consists of officers and supervisors specially trained to deal with emotionally disturbed persons in a variety of situations. These circumstances may include suicidal persons, persons exhibiting irrational behavior, psychiatric patients, the homeless, and any other situations that deal specifically with the needs of the mental health community and emotionally disturbed people. .

Policy:

Preserving the dignity of individuals who are emotionally disturbed is essential. The CRT will:

- A. Take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of its members, the community, and the emotionally disturbed person.
- B. Ensure that each emotionally disturbed person's (EDP) physical and mental health is cared for with understanding and compassion during police contact.
- C. Be utilized in situations where their specialized training may be helpful in dealing with persons who are suffering from an emotional disorder, mental illness or traumatic event.
- D. Facilitate the diversion of persons suffering from emotional disorders or mental illness to a mental health facility or other appropriate agency.

Procedure:

The CRT will consist of a lieutenant, 9 CRT trained sergeants and at least 9 CRT trained officers.

Members, if available, will be dispatched to calls that meet the following conditions:

- a) Threat of or attempted suicide.
- b) An individual threatens to, or inflicts harm upon themselves or others, **and exhibits** signs and/or symptoms of a mental health problem.
- c) Requests for assistance from Mental Health providers in the community, such as Crisis Services.
- d) All successful suicides.
- e) Calls involving people who demonstrate conduct that indicates they are a danger to themselves which include a person's refusal or inability to meet their essential need for food, shelter, clothing, or health care, and provided that such refusal or inability is likely to result in serious harm if there is no immediate hospitalization.
- f) Chronic EDP situations that do not meet criteria outlined in Section 9.41 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Duties and Responsibilities

Members of the Cheektowaga Police Department CRT will:

- a) Complete a 40 hour NYS DCJS Crisis Intervention Team training class.
- b) When involved in a call that requires a 9.41 MHL transport, CRT members will note on the 9.41 form that they are a CRT member. CRT members will conduct dialogue with the staff at the hospital prior to leaving the hospital. They will also attempt a follow up contact with the subject within a week of the original transport, to ensure that a treatment plan is in place and being followed.
- c) Update the "Cheektowaga Police Department CRT Database" whenever contact is made with an emotionally disturbed person.
- d) Co-ordinate treatment and follow up with Crisis Services.
- e) Share information regarding situations involving EDP's with other CRT members.
- f) Will request Crisis Service's trauma response team to the scene when needed for suicides and traumatic deaths.
- g) Team members will be identified by a pin worn on their right pocket flap indicating that they are members of the Cheektowaga Police Department's Crisis Response Team.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Chief of Police:</u>
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