

## Emergency Admissions

### 410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for when officers may place a person under an Emergency Admission (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.41).

#### 410.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.01):

**Likely to result in serious harm** - Includes a substantial risk of physical harm to:

- (a) One's self as manifested by threats of or attempts at suicide, or serious bodily harm or other conduct demonstrating that the person is dangerous to him/herself.
- (b) Others as manifested by homicidal or other violent behavior by which others are placed in reasonable fear of serious physical harm.

### 410.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Town of Cheektowaga Police Department to protect the public and individuals through legal and appropriate use of emergency admission process.

### 410.3 AUTHORITY

Any officer:

- (a) May take any person into custody for an emergency admission when the person appears to be mentally ill and is conducting themselves in a manner which is likely to result in serious harm and transport the person to a hospital, comprehensive psychiatric emergency program (CPEP), or crisis stabilization center as specified in Mental Hygiene Law § 9.41.
  - 1. The officer may also temporarily detain such person in a safe and comfortable place pending an examination or admission to a hospital or CPEP. However, notification shall be made to the Director of Community Services (DCS), the director's designee or, if not available, to the city or county health officer, as applicable (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.41).
- (b) Shall, upon written direction from the DCS, take a person into custody or assist in the transporting of the person to a designated hospital, CPEP, or crisis stabilization center (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.45).
- (c) Shall, upon written direction of a qualified supervising or treating psychiatrist, take into custody a person for an emergency admission or assist in the transportation of the person to a hospital or CPEP designated by the qualified psychiatrist (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.55).
- (d) Shall, upon written request of the director or the director's designee of a hospital that does not have appropriate inpatient psychiatric services, take into custody a person for an emergency admission or assist in transporting the person. The person shall be transported to the hospital or CPEP designated by the director or the director's designee of the hospital (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.57).

# Town of Cheektowaga Police Department

## Policy Manual

### *Emergency Admissions*

---

- (e) May, upon the request of an authorized physician who has certified that the person is mentally ill and in need of involuntary care and treatment in a hospital, take a person into custody and transport or assist in the transportation of that person to a hospital as directed. For purposes of this section, an authorized physician is one of the two physicians who are required to examine the person and who authorized the involuntary admission (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.27).
- (f) Shall, upon written request of the DCS, take a person who has been certified by the DCS as having a mental illness which is likely to result in serious harm into custody and transport or assist in the transportation of the person to a hospital for an involuntary admission (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.37).
- (g) Shall, upon the direction of an authorized physician or qualified mental health professional who is a member of a mobile crisis outreach team, take into custody and transport or assist in the transportation of the person to a hospital or, when the individual consents, to a crisis stabilization center (Mental Hygiene Law § 9.58).

#### 410.3.1 CRISIS STABILIZATION CENTER SERVICES

In all cases, officers should inform individuals of crisis stabilization center services where available (Mental Hygiene Law § 36.02).

#### **410.4 CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Any officer handling a call involving a person who may qualify for detention for the purpose of emergency admission should consider, as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

- (a) Available information that might assist in determining the possible cause and nature of the person's action or stated intentions.
- (b) Community or neighborhood mediation services.
- (c) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques
- (d) Community or other resources that may be readily available to assist with mental health issues.

While these steps are encouraged, nothing in this section is intended to dissuade officers from taking reasonable action to ensure the safety of the officers and others.

An emergency admission should be preferred over arrest for people who have mental health issues and are suspected of committing minor crimes or creating other public safety issues.

#### **410.5 TRANSPORTATION**

When transporting any combative individual for an emergency admission or involuntary admission, the transporting officer should have Dispatch notify the receiving facility of the estimated time of arrival, the level of cooperation of the individual and whether any special medical care is needed.

Officers may transport individuals in the patrol unit and shall secure them in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. Should the detainee require transport in a medical transport

## *Emergency Admissions*

---

vehicle and the safety of any person, including the detainee, requires the presence of an officer during the transport.

### **410.6 TRANSFER TO APPROPRIATE FACILITY**

Upon arrival at the facility, the officer will escort the individual into a treatment area designated by a facility staff member. If the individual is not seeking treatment voluntarily, the officer should provide the staff member with the written application for an emergency admission and remain present to provide clarification of the grounds for detention, upon request. 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 individual off in triage without a formal transfer of custody.

Absent exigent circumstances, the transporting officer should not assist facility staff with the admission process, including restraint of the individual. However, if the individual is transported and delivered while restrained, the officer may assist with transferring the individual to facility restraints and will be available to assist during the admission process, if requested. Under normal circumstances, officers will not apply facility-ordered restraints.

### **410.7 DOCUMENTATION**

The officer should complete the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) Emergency or CPEP Emergency Admission Form, or other form approved by the Department, whenever a person is taken into custody pursuant to Mental Hygiene Law § 9.41. A copy of the form will be left with the treating mental health staff. The officer should also provide a verbal summary to any evaluating staff member regarding the circumstances leading to the involuntary detention.

The officer will document his/her actions in an police report.

### **410.8 CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

Officers investigating an individual who is suspected of committing a minor criminal offense and who is being taken into custody through an emergency admission should resolve the criminal matter by issuing a warning or a citation, as appropriate.

When an individual who may qualify for an emergency admission has committed a serious criminal offense that would normally result in an arrest and transfer to a jail facility, the officer should:

- (a) Arrest the individual when there is probable cause to do so.
- (b) Notify the appropriate supervisor of the facts supporting the arrest and the facts that would support the detention.
- (c) Facilitate the individual's transfer to jail.
- (d) Thoroughly document in the related reports the circumstances that indicate the individual may qualify for an emergency admission.

In the supervisor's judgment, the individual may be arrested or booked and transported to the appropriate mental health facility. The supervisor should consider the seriousness of the offense,

# Town of Cheektowaga Police Department

## Policy Manual

### *Emergency Admissions*

---

the treatment options available, the ability of this department to regain custody of the individual, department resources (e.g., posting a guard) and other relevant factors in making this decision.

#### **410.9 FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS**

Whenever a person is taken into custody for an emergency admission, the handling officers should seek to determine if the person owns or has access to any firearm or other deadly weapon. Officers should consider whether it is appropriate and consistent with current search and seizure law under the circumstances to seize any such firearms or other dangerous weapons (e.g., safekeeping, evidence, consent).

Officers are cautioned that a search warrant may be needed before entering a residence or other place to search, unless lawful warrantless entry has already been made (e.g., exigent circumstances, consent). A warrant may also be needed before searching for or seizing weapons.

The handling officer should further advise the person of the procedure for the return of any firearm or other weapon that has been taken into custody.

#### **410.10 TRAINING**

This department will endeavor to provide department-approved training on interaction with mentally disabled persons, an emergency admission and crisis intervention.