

**TYLER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER**

05.700

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM AND EMERGENCY MENTAL CUSTODY PROCEDURES

REVISED 2/2/12

EFFECTIVE 06/21/95

05.701 PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to be a guideline for the utilization of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to assist uniform patrol officers in finding safe, and tactically sound, resolutions to incidents involving persons in mental health crisis. It also establishes procedures for the handling of Emergency Mental Custody situations.

05.702 CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM FUNCTION

The CIT Program consists of sworn and non-sworn personnel who have received specialized training to respond more effectively to individuals in a serious mental health crisis. The program's objective is to dispatch CIT personnel in such situations. CIT personnel will assess the person in crisis and attempt to de-escalate the situation. CIT personnel need not be the primary unit for the call for service. CIT personnel shall maintain supervision of the scene until arrival of a supervisor or resolution of the situation.

05.703 TEAM ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Shift Commanders are responsible for supervising CIT personnel on their shift. Non-CIT personnel who encounter a person in a serious mental health crisis may request the assistance of a CIT member. The CIT personnel will evaluate the person in crisis and help de-escalate the situation so that the person can be safely transported to an emergency mental health treatment center or Smith County Jail as appropriate. The CIT personnel do not automatically assume responsibility for the call. If CIT personnel are unavailable, non-CIT personnel should be dispatched to handle the call. All personnel that are in position to interact with the public are required to receive entry level training in crisis intervention/responding to persons with mental illness. All CIT personnel of the department will receive refresher training in Responding to Persons with Mental Illnesses at least once every three years.

05.704 LEGAL DEFINITIONS

Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 573 - 573.001 - Apprehension by Peace Officer Without Warrant.

- A. A Peace Officer, without a warrant, may take a person into custody if the officer:
 - 1. has reason to believe and does believe that:
 - a. the person is mentally ill; and
 - b. because of that mental illness there is a substantial risk of serious harm to the person or to others unless the person is immediately restrained; and
 - 2. believes that there is not sufficient time to obtain a warrant before taking the person into custody.
- B. A substantial risk of serious harm to the person or others under Subsection (a) (1) (B) may be demonstrated by:
 - 1. the person's behavior; or

2. evidence of severe emotional distress and deterioration in the person's mental condition to the extent that the person cannot remain at liberty.
- C. The peace officer may form the belief that the person meets the criteria for apprehension:
1. from a representation of a credible person (special weight should be given to recommendations from a mental health professional); or
 2. on the basis of the conduct of the apprehended person or the circumstances under which the apprehended person is found.
- D. A peace officer who takes a person into custody under Subsection (a) shall immediately transport the apprehended person to:
1. the nearest appropriate inpatient mental health facility; or
 2. a mental health facility deemed suitable by the local mental health authority, if an appropriate inpatient mental health facility is not available.
- E. A jail or similar detention facility may not be deemed suitable except in an extreme emergency.
- F. A person detained in a jail or a nonmedical facility shall be kept separate from any person who is charged with or convicted of a crime.

05.705 EMERGENCY MENTAL CUSTODY ORDERS

Tyler Police Department officers will only do emergency mental custody warrants on individuals taken into custody by this agency or who were transported to the hospital by EMS or another from within the City Limits of Tyler. Mental Custody Warrants on individuals transported from another jurisdiction will not be done, unless, upon our arrival, it is outwardly obvious that this person is a danger to themselves or another.

During Normal Business Hours:

1. Assess situation at scene; determine need for psychiatric evaluation,
2. If there is an emergency (e.g., attempted, implied threats to, or an actual suicide attempt, officer will transport to Andrews Center.
 - a. The officer should have the Communications Unit notify Andrews Center that he or she is en route to that location beforehand to expedite the process.
 - b. Upon arrival at Andrews Center the officer will complete a Peace Officer's Application for Detention.
 - c. Officers will remain with the patient until the initial psychiatric screening is completed and/or relieved by a Mental Health Deputy.
 - d. If the officer is relieved by a Mental Health Deputy before the initial screening is conducted it must be with the understanding that the Mental Health Deputy has accepted responsibility for the patient. This should be documented in the officer's report.
3. The Smith County Sheriff's Office (S.C.S.O.) will transport the patient to a state hospital.
4. All other requests or exceptions shall be approved by a supervisor.

After Normal Business Hours:

1. Assess situation at scene; determine need for psychiatric evaluation.
2. If there is an emergency, the officer will transport to East Texas Medical Center Emergency Room.
3. Arresting officer will complete a Peace Officer's Application for Detention and attach a copy of it to a case report, regardless if the person is admitted.

4. The officer will remain with the patient until relieved by an on-call Mental Health Officer or on-call Sitter; or the patient is admitted to the hospital and/or the officer is advised by the treating doctor or nurse that they may return to service.
5. Transportation to BHC will be provided by ambulance. **If the subject is violent, officers will follow the ambulance to BHC upon a request from ETMC.**
6. Transportation to state hospital will be provided by S.C.S.O.
7. All other requests or exceptions shall be approved by a supervisor.

Police Response to Hospital:

1. Contact the medical professional who requested police assistance and have them articulate the need for a Peace Officer's Application for Detention (POW) including exigency of the situation. That person's name along with their reasoning for the detention will be included in the POW.
2. Determine who transported the patient to the hospital and whether or not it was from within the City of Tyler city limits.
3. If patient was transported from another jurisdiction, hospital personnel will be advised to contact that jurisdiction, unless the patient through words or actions appears to be an immediate threat to themselves or others. If the patient is violent, the officer will stay with the patient until relieved by the on-call Mental Health Deputy or another officer. A supervisor will be contacted prior to a POW being completed in these cases.
4. If patient was transported from within the Tyler city limits and hospital staff satisfactorily articulates the need for a Peace Officer's Application for Detention, one will be completed. If the patient is violent, the officer will stay with the patient until relieved by the on-call Mental Health Deputy or another officer. If the patient is not violent, the officer will consult with the patient's doctor or nurse to determine if there is a need for the officer to remain with the patient. If the medical staff indicates that there is no need for the officer to stay with the patient, the officer will document this along with the doctor or nurse's name in the report and return to service. If there is no violence indicated and the hospital staff continues to request that the officer stay with the patient, a supervisor will respond to the location and consult with the officer and the medical staff. The supervisor will make the final determination whether the officer may leave the hospital when the patient is not being violent.
5. Courtesy transports, where a hospital calls for the PD to respond simply for the purpose of transporting a patient to Andrews Center or anywhere else will not be done without supervisor approval. The Andrews Center will not accept patients without a completed POW.

Intoxication and/or Criminal Charges

1. Andrews Center and BHC do not accept intoxicated individuals. This should be considered before completing an Application for Detention.
2. If there are on sight criminal charges and the subject is intoxicated by alcohol or any other substance, the person should be booked into the Smith County Jail. If requested by jail personnel, the officer will transport the subject to ETMC for a medical evaluation for his or her intoxication.
3. For those situations when there are on sight criminal charges and the subject is not intoxicated, the Application for Detention may be completed if the officer believes there is a need to have the person evaluated. If the person is to be admitted, the officer will request another case number for the criminal offense(s) and leave that report open for further investigation.
4. If the person is not to be admitted, the officer will take the person to the jail for booking on the charges. The officer will document the detention and detail the criminal charges in the report.
5. A supervisor should be contacted if there is any question.

Angela S. Sander

Approved: 2/2/12