

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE Aug. 01, 1987	NUMBER 3.36
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Handling Mentally Ill Individuals		



Cross Reference:..... 3.40, **3.57**, Reference Section
Ohio Revised Code:...5122.01, 5122.10

I. Definitions

Mentally Ill Individual

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

II. Policy Statements

- A. Sworn personnel shall take into custody and transport a mentally ill individual 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 individual 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. Emergency Hospitalization ORC Section 5122.10 grants law enforcement personnel the authority to take mentally ill individuals into custody to ensure the safety of the individual 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 individual who:**
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.**

C. When **available**, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers **should** respond to calls for service dealing with mentally ill individuals, **or individuals who have attempted or are threatening to commit suicide. CIT officers should request a supervisor's approval before responding to calls for service off their assigned precinct. Also refer to the "Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)" directive for barricaded individuals.**

D. **Mentally ill individuals being charged with an offense should be processed as any other prisoner.**

- 1. For a felony offense, ensure investigative personnel are informed of the individual's mental illness and/or need of a mental health evaluation as soon as practical. 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 individual is admitted for a mental health evaluation.**

E. **Sworn personnel** may transport mentally ill individuals from a mental health facility or hospital to another mental health facility or hospital, only when the following apply:

- 1. At the time of request, the individual is exhibiting violent behavior and/or making threats that place others in fear of physical harm.**
- 2. The transport is directly from a facility in the City of Columbus to a facility located in Franklin County or the City of Columbus.**
- 3. Pre-arrangements have been made between the two facilities.**
- 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 **mentally ill individuals 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 individual to a mental health facility.**
- 2. Refer a family member to the Probate Pre-Screening Unit at Netcare,**
- 3. Request the individual's consent to be transported to a mental health center or hospital for evaluation.**
 - a. If consent is granted, transport the individual following procedures in Section, III, D.**

B. For **mentally ill individuals who meet the criteria for emergency hospitalization under Section, II, B, do the following:**

- 1. Explain all of the following to the individual:**
 - a. Your name, rank, and that you're a Columbus Police officer;**

- b. *You are taking the individual into custody and that the custody is not a criminal arrest;*
 - c. *The name of the facility to which the individual is being transported, and,*
 - d. *That the transport is for an examination by mental health professionals.*
2. *Take the individual into custody in the least conspicuous manner possible.*
 3. *Complete an Application for Emergency Admission (Ohio Department of Mental Health form DMH-0025), aka "Pink Slip"*
 4. *Transport the individual following procedures in Section, III, D.*
- C. *Completing an Application for Emergency Admission, aka "Pink Slip":***
1. *List the circumstances and reasons that the individual was taken into custody in the statement of belief section, include the following:*
 - a. *How you came into contact with the individual,*
 - b. *Symptoms of mental illness reported by the individual or witnesses,*
 - c. *Signs of mental illness **observed by you or reported by witnesses,***
 - d. *Risk assessment statements, including any of the following:*
 - (1) *Current intent and available plans and/or means*
 - (2) *A history of suicidal or homicidal tendencies,*
 - (3) *Prior treatment for mental illness*
 - e. *A conclusion supporting the need for the individual to be evaluated at a mental health facility.*
 2. *Present the Pink Slip when admitting the individual into the mental health facility or hospital.*
- D. *Transporting mentally ill Individuals***
1. *Transport adults to one of the following:*
 - a. *Netcare Access Emergency Services at 199 South Central Avenue.*
 - b. *Netcare Access Emergency Services at 741 East Broad Street.*
 - c. ***A hospital emergency room, when the Netcare facilities are unable to admit the individual.***
 2. *Transport juveniles to one of the following:*
 - a. *Netcare Youth Crisis Program at 199 South Central Avenue.*
 - b. *Nationwide Children's Hospital Emergency Room, **when the Netcare facility is unable to admit the juvenile.***
 3. *Complete a NetRMS 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 to admit the individual by sworn personnel is completed, and*
 - c. *The facility accepts custody or responsibility for the individual.*
- E. Responding to information received from a mental health professional of an immediate threat made by a mentally ill individual to kill or cause serious physical harm to a known individual.**
1. Communications Bureau personnel
 - a. *When the threat is not within Columbus, notify the appropriate foreign agency.*
 - b. *When the threat is within 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 a **NetRMS 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 potential victim's location*
 - a. *Attempt to locate the potential victim and determine his/her well-being.*
 - b. *If located, notify of the threat and provide the Incident Report number.*
 - c. *If not located, leave a message to contact the Communications Bureau, include the phone number and Incident Report number.*
 - d. *Contact personnel completing the Incident Report and inform of the notification disposition.*
 3. *Sworn personnel dispatched to the mental health professional's location:*
 - a. *Complete a **NetRMS** 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 10-55 House Watch as necessary.*
 - d. *Relay the information to the oncoming watch.*