

SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: 09/30/2016	Supersedes Policy Dated: 11/30/2012	Rescinds:	SOG Number:
Accreditation Index: 41.2.7			302.4
Part Title: Support Services		Chapter Title: Community Relations	
Chief of Police:			

Social Service and Criminal Justice Diversion

I Policy

It is the policy of the Springfield Police Department to refer citizens in need and to divert some violators to social service organizations under extenuating circumstances. Citizens in need of assistance that is beyond the normal capabilities of police personnel may be candidates for referral. Violators, whether state law or city ordinance, who are obviously in need of assistance that cannot be offered within normal detention facilities should be considered for diversion.¹

II Definitions

III Procedure

1 INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

1.1 Police officers are authorized to commit people who are a threat to themselves or others due to mental deficiencies or disease to facilities for treatment of the deficiency. Such involuntary commitments are for a period of 96 hours. (CALEA 41.2.7(c))²

1.1.1 Procedures established by Missouri Statutes 632.300 - 632.315 shall be followed when making an involuntary commitment for treatment of a mental disorder.

1.1.2 Procedures established by Missouri Statute, Chapter 631, shall be followed for involuntary commitment of persons for alcohol and drug abuse.

1 Policy Statement revised, minor wording change, per Policy Change Order 16-012.

2 Section 1.1 revised, 5th Edition removed from CALEA Standard reference, per Policy Change Order 16-012.

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2 INTOXICATED PERSONS

- 2.1 Police personnel often make contact with intoxicated individuals who are unable to take care of themselves due to their level of intoxication. Personnel should make arrangements for the care of these people if they are not charged with a criminal offense or ordinance violation.³
 - 2.1.1 Intoxicated persons may be left in the care of a responsible party at the location of contact.
 - 2.1.2 Intoxicated persons may be transported to their residence if a responsible party is there who can care for them.
 - 2.1.3 An intoxicated person may be diverted to a detoxification facility if other efforts to care for the person have failed.
 - 2.1.4 Persons who appear to be severely intoxicated to the point that they are unable to make decisions about their welfare or are unconscious should receive medical examination.

3 ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS

- 3.1 Police personnel may contact elderly individuals who are unable to care for themselves. Such individuals, who may or may not have committed an offense, should be considered as candidates for diversion.⁴
 - 3.1.1 When possible, a relative of the elderly person should be contacted to take charge of the person.
 - 3.1.2 Police personnel may make direct referrals of the elderly person to the Missouri Division of Aging or may refer the relative of such person to this division for assistance.

4 COORDINATION WITH SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

- 4.1 The Police Department is an integral part of the criminal justice system and the human services delivery system and is vital to the coordination and delivery of such services. Interaction with other criminal justice organizations and social service agencies is an essential role central to the community policing philosophy.⁵
- 4.2 Upon request, Police Department personnel will participate in committees, task forces, and governing boards of social service organizations and will assist in designing systems for the referral and delivery of social and human services to designated groups.
 - 4.2.1 Prior review and authorization by the Chief of Police shall be necessary.

3 Section 2.1 revised, minor wording changes, per Policy Change Order 16-012.

4 Section 3.1 revised, minor wording change, per Policy Change Order 16-012.

5 Section 4.1 revised, minor wording change, per Policy Change Order 16-012.

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4.3 Upon request, Police Department personnel will participate in committees, task forces, and governing boards of criminal justice organizations for the purpose of improving the design, delivery, and implementation of criminal justice system programs, services, and capabilities.

4.3.1 Prior review and authorization by the Chief of Police shall be necessary.

4.4 Employees who are designated to participate are required to keep their bureau commanders informed about the activities, decisions, and actions taken in such committees, boards, and task forces.

5 OTHER REFERRAL AGENCIES

5.1 Police officers are responsible for providing referral information to persons in need of social service follow-up. This may be accomplished by making the telephone call on behalf of the person or by providing them with the telephone number.

5.2 Police officers shall assist victims of domestic assault with safe transportation to appropriate shelter.

5.3 Major case crime victims shall be provided referral information to the Victim Center.^{6 7}

6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY REFERRAL

6.1 Police officers have the authority to offer informal adjustments consistent with the established limits placed on their discretion by department policy and statute.

6.2 Formal referrals to criminal justice agencies and services are made pursuant to arrests or judicial custody of juveniles and are not within the discretion of an officer to make. Officers, as a matter of existing law, have very little access to criminal justice diversion programs.

IV Attachments

6 Section 5.3 revised, *Victim Center* name correction, per Policy Change Order 16-012.

7 Section previously numbered 5.4 deleted, reference to the *Officer's Handbook* removed, per PCO 16-012.