



Ripon Police Department

Written Directive



Department Order: # 418-01

Effective Date: January 21, 2020

Index as: Mental Health Incidents – Response and Tracking

Internal Review: 120 Days

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I. POLICY AND PURPOSE

This directive describes the implementation of a response and tracking of mental health incidents. It is the policy of the department to respond in an appropriate manner to persons involved in a mental health incident, while using the appropriate level of response to insure the safety of everyone involved and help resolve a variety of situations involving individuals in crisis.

II. PROCEDURE

- A.** Upon receiving a call or staff response to a mental health incident, staff should consider notifying the County Mobile Crisis Response Unit and request their response to the location of the incident.
- B.** If the mental health incident does not involve a criminal act, officers will standby for the mobile crisis unit to respond to the location if their response was requested.
 - 1. If the mobile crisis unit responds to the location, the officer shall coordinate with them on attempting contact with the person having the mental health crisis. When considering the decision to make in person contact, the officer shall balance the apparent need for immediate intervention against the risks to officers, the mobile

crisis unit, the public, and the person having the mental health crisis.

2. If the mobile crisis unit has an extended estimated time of arrival, the officer may attempt contact with the person having the mental health crisis to verify their wellbeing, along with others that may be present. Officers are not required to standby for an extended time awaiting the mobile crisis response. An area check shall be completed to verify that there is no immediate action staff is required to take to prevent the loss of life.
 3. If the mobile crisis unit will not respond, or it is determined their response is not needed, the officer should attempt to contact the person having the mental health crisis to verify their wellbeing, along with others that may be present, and proceed in accordance with Policy 467 Medical Aid and Response and Policy 418 Mental Illness Commitments. Although there are times when immediate contact with the person having the mental health crisis may aggravate the situation and a referral to mobile crisis may be more appropriate. Officers are required to obtain supervisor approval if only a referral is made to mobile crisis. When considering the decision to make in person contact, the officer shall balance the apparent need for immediate intervention against the risks to officers, the public, and the person having the mental health crisis.
- C.** If a criminal act is occurring officers shall respond to each situation as directed by department policy or current law, specifically when there is an inherent threat to other residents of the home, businesses, or other members of the general public.
- D.** The officers' response and all relevant circumstances shall be fully documented in a written report or incident log, depending on the involvement of the officer, as well as all actions taken by the person having the mental health crisis.
1. Upon completion of a written report staff shall select "Mental Health Incident" under the special circumstances tab on page 1 of the report.
- E.** Nothing in this directive shall supersede current policy or procedures, such as Policy 467 Medical Aid and Response, and Policy 418 Mental Illness Commitments.

III. ACCOUNTABILITY

Every employee who receives a written directive, new or revised, will acknowledge electronically that he or she has received, reviewed, and understands the directive.

VI. PROPONENT

Administration Unit.

VII. CANCELLATION

Cancellation of an issued directive will be made by the Chief of Police.

By the order of:

Lieutenant Danny Sauer

Signature of Agency Authority/Title