

# CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Anderson, South Carolina

<b>DIRECTIVE TYPE</b> General Order	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> September 10, 2006	<b>NUMBER</b> 2019
<b>SUBJECT</b> Detention Center: Violent and/or Self-Destructive Detainees		
<b>REFERENCE</b> SCLEA 20.1.19 and G/O 2017	<b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES</b> All Others	
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> All Personnel	<b>RE-EVALUATION DATE</b> Annual	<b>NO. PAGES</b> 7

**A. Policy**

It shall be the policy of the City of Anderson Police Department to identify at intake or as soon as possible thereafter, all detainees who may be seriously impaired from drugs – including alcohol and other types of toxic substances – and/or who may become suicidal. The City of Anderson Police Department is committed to offering the best care and welfare possible to all detainees held within the detention facility. A major part of this care is the assessment of those persons who may be seriously impaired and/or suicidal. Once an assessment has been made indicating that the detainee is at-risk, it then becomes paramount to have a plan for holding and observing these individuals. The procedures that follow will outline the steps needed to conduct a proper assessment and the procedures to follow when a person may be at-risk from drug intoxication and/or who may have suicidal tendencies is placed within a cell unit.

**B. Definitions**

*Alcohol* - Wherever the term “*alcohol*” is used in this general order, it may be assumed that the term refers to alcohol, drugs, and other types of toxic substances.

*Drugs* - Wherever the term “*drugs*” is used in this general order, it may be assumed that the term refers to alcohol, drugs, and other types of toxic substances.

*Toxic Substances* - Wherever the term “*toxic substances*” is used in this general order, it may be assumed that the term refers to alcohol, drugs, and other types of toxic substances.

## **C. Procedures**

1. It will be the discretion of the on-duty supervisor as to accept or deny the placement of a person under the influence of alcohol and or drugs before being examined by a physician.
2. An individual who exhibits signs of extreme intoxication from a chemical or other substance should, if possible:
  - a. Be administered a “not under arrest” datamaster test to get a breath sample or
  - b. Be taken to a medical facility to receive a blood alcohol / drug level test.
3. The results of either test will be placed with the detainee’s booking file and be maintained along with the Intake Form.
4. These individuals whenever possible should be placed within a single occupant cell unit.
5. In addition their cell unit should have a direct view from the electronic monitoring system and the video recording system.
6. The on-duty detention officer will be required to place these persons on a 15 minute personal check until such time that the detainee appears to be stable.
7. Often persons who have ingested toxic substances and/or are combative towards law enforcement officers can begin to induce harm to themselves when placed within a cell unit.
  - a. There are a number of reasons, both physiological and psychological, that create this type of behavior.
  - b. Persons exhibiting this type of behavior often tend to calm down after a period of time has elapsed.
  - c. Whenever possible, these persons should be placed within a single occupant cell unit.
    - (1) The cell unit should have a direct view from the electronic monitoring system and the video recording system.
  - d. They should not be allowed to possess any type of object that could possibly be used to cause bodily harm to themselves.

- e. Detainees exhibiting this type of behavior will be placed on a 15-minute personal observation until such time as their behavior changes.
  - f. When a person is placed in detention with these outward appearances the on-duty detention should be thoroughly briefed.
  - g. Their intake behavior, along with their behavior changes should be properly documented within the detention officer's shift summary report.
8. Communications between shifts with detention officers is vital to the efficient operation of the jail facility, especially when persons have been detained with unusual behavior being present.
9. When conditions are present within the City of Anderson Police Department Detention Center facility indicating that it would not be in the best interest of the detainee to house the detainee, the on-duty supervisor may contact the Anderson County Detention Center or a Mental Health facility for clearance to transport the detainee to the respective facility. Unfavorable conditions may include but are not limited to:
- a. The City of Anderson Police Department personnel available at the time of the detainment and/or
  - b. The type of cell unit available and/or
  - c. The individual's extreme behavior.
10. Before transporting a detainee to another facility for these reasons, that facility should be contacted prior to leaving the City of Anderson Police Department Detention Center.
11. In the event the on-duty supervisor is denied clearance for transferring the detainee, he/she will contact the Jail Administrator.
12. Suicide
- a. Suicidal tendencies can either be known or suspected through a proper intake. For the procedures to be followed when detaining an individual of this nature see the section "A Suicide Assessment/Prevention".
  - b. The City of Anderson Police Department staff shall endeavor to assure:
    - (1) That such detainees deemed or suspected as suicidal are identified through a screening and assessment effort at intake and that they are closely monitored throughout their confinement.

- (2) That ongoing training, supervision and assessment is conducted to combat the possibility of suicide.
  - (3) That factors in the physical environment do not contribute to or aggravate suicidal potential.
- c. Screening and Assessment (For more information see General Order 2017)
- (1) When officers make a lawful arrest of an individual it is important that the transporting officer pay close attention to the comments made by the arrested individual during transport to the detention facility.
    - (a) Arrested persons will often make unassisted comments giving way to their behavioral tendencies once placed under arrest.
      - i. These comments will be taken into consideration along with the information obtained during the booking-screening process to assess the mental condition of the detainee.
  - (2) A person who is known to be suicidal and who will potentially cause harm to themselves should have a mental health screening prior to being placed within a cell unit.
  - (3) Intake screening will include the following:
    - (a) Arresting officer's and/or booking officer's observations.
    - (b) Direct observations of the detainee.
    - (c) Specific questions asked during the completion of the intake form.
    - (d) Arresting and/or booking officers should note on the intake form if they observed any mood, behavior, verbal/nonverbal communication that might indicate suicidal tendencies.
    - (e) During the booking process, physical scarring on the wrists or neck should be check for and if observed, notated on the intake form.
- d. The on-duty detention officer will be thoroughly briefed in the event a person is detained that shows any indications of suicidal tendencies. The words "SUICIDE RISK" will be written on the intake form and the Prisoner Observation Sheet.

e. Housing

- (1) When possible, persons identified as a suicidal risk, who are male, will be placed in a cell with at least one other detainee, unless one of them presents a clear and present danger to others.
  - (a) In the event they present a danger to others, these individuals will be placed in cell alone.
  - (b) The cell will be equipped with a video monitor.
- (2) Individuals suspected of being suicidal will have their shoelaces removed along with any other item that could possibly be used in a suicide attempt.
  - (a) Only in extreme circumstances will the person be stripped of all clothing.
    - i. A person who is placed in a cell unit with no clothing will not be placed in a cell unit with other individuals.
- (3) The jail board in the control room will have the initials S/R or the words "SUICIDE RISK" placed above the particular cell unit which houses a person identified as a suicide risk.
- (4) In the event a person becomes so combative as to do harm to themselves, and he/she has been assessed as a suicide risk, the Emergency Medical Service will immediately be notified to respond.
  - (a) Only the physical restraint necessary to prevent personal or other bodily harm should be used until the EMS unit arrives.
  - (b) The EMS unit will be advised to transport the detainee to either Anderson Area Medical center, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, or another suitable facility for a mental health screening.
  - (c) The shift supervisor will be notified as soon as EMS is notified.
  - (d) Attempts will be made to contact a family member to advise them of the incident and the transport.

- (e) Once EMS is contacted and the situation is under control the on-duty officer will complete the Detention Medical Form.

f. Response to Attempts

- (1) When an attempted suicide is detected the Emergency Medical Service will be notified immediately along with the on-duty shift supervisor.
- (2) Officers responding to an attempted suicide must initiate first aid when appropriate.
- (3) The detainee and the immediate area where the attempt occurred must be secured.
- (4) The on-duty supervisor will assume command of the incident until relieved by a person of higher rank and authority.
- (5) The supervisor will be responsible for documenting the names and times of arrival for responding personnel.
- (6) As soon as possible the Jail Administrator will be notified to respond.
- (7) The administrator will then assess the situation and begin the necessary investigation depending on the seriousness of the attempt.
- (8) The Jail Administrator will be responsible for contacting the Chief of Police.
- (9) In the event of a successful suicide attempt, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) will be contacted to conduct an independent investigation.
- (10) Post Incident Review
  - (a) An Administrative Review of the events surrounding a suicide or a serious attempt while in custody will be conducted.
  - (b) The review process will be conducted in addition to, but separate from, any official investigation(s) that may be conducted and/or on-going concerning the incident.
  - (c) The review will critique all events leading up to the incident and include the response of personnel and an assessment of the detention operations, policies, and procedures.

(d) The administrative review will be conducted within the guidelines as set forth in the City of Anderson Police Department's Internal Affairs General Order 1801.

g. Continuity of Care

(1) If any member of the City of Anderson Police Department becomes aware by any means that a person being detained within the detention facility is contemplating suicide the member will act immediately to notify the on-duty supervisor.

(a) The supervisor will then begin a follow-up screening and an assessment will immediately follow.

h. Communication

(1) Communicating to other Department staff about potentially suicidal detainees is critical.

(2) Officers identifying potentially suicidal detainees must communicate any such current information to other staff (e.g. via pass-on logs, verbal briefings).

(a) This information/communication does not violate detainee confidentiality.

By order of:

  
Martin D. Brown, Chief of Police

9-7-2006  
Date