

CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Anderson, South Carolina

DIRECTIVE TYPE General Order	EFFECTIVE DATE August 1, 2018	NUMBER 2012
SUBJECT Inmate Attempted/Completed Suicide		
REVISED		
REFERENCE Detention Facility Operations	AMENDS/SUPERSEDES	
DISTRIBUTION All Personnel	RE-EVALUATION DATE Annual	NO. PAGES 4

I. Policy

It is the policy of the Detention Center to provide security staff with operational procedures and policy information in responding to attempted or completed suicides.

II. Procedure

A. Officer Responsibilities

1. Officers discovering an attempted suicide shall immediately notify Medical Personnel and the supervisor/acting supervisor on duty.
2. Secure all inmates in rooms, cells, multipurpose rooms, dayroom, etc.
3. Prior to entering a dormitory or an inmate pod room, officers shall relinquish all security keys to an officer located outside the immediate area.
4. Two officers are required to enter rooms/dormitories with an alleged suicide victim. Officers entering the area should remain calm and alert. They should exercise extreme caution in approaching the alleged victim in order to safeguard against a trick or decoy designed to aid in an escape attempt or to hold an officer hostage.
5. Whenever an attempted suicide is by strangulation, release pressure on the inmate's neck by lifting his body. If possible, untie the ligature and place the victim on a flat surface such as the bed or floor. If untying the ligature is not possible, continue holding the inmate until an officer or shift Supervisor arrives and cuts the ligature with a pair of Emergency Security Scissors.
6. As required, administer life-saving care. Only those officers qualified to perform such care may do so.
7. Cooperate and assist the Medical staff/EMS Paramedics as requested.

8. Identify, separate, and isolate any roommates or any other inmates who were in the immediate area of the suicide.
9. Strip search inmates as directed by the shift Supervisor/acting Supervisor and report findings.
10. Re-house inmates from area as directed.
11. Officers involved with any aspect of the emergency shall submit a detailed report to the shift Supervisor.

B. Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Ensure that the medical staff have been notified and are responding, if available.
2. Ensure that EMS has been contacted, if requested or determined necessary.
3. Request that a body camera be brought to the scene. Direct videotaping of the emergency immediately upon arrival. After the incident is resolved, direct the capturing of digital photographs of the scene and the collection of evidence by APD Forensics Personnel.
4. If a suicide attempt results in transporting an inmate to the Emergency Trauma Center, the jail Administrator will be notified.
 5. If a suicide is attempted or completed, notify the following personnel:
 - a. Jail Administrator
 - b. Detention Lieutenants
 - c. The Chief of Police will normally be notified by the Jail Administrator.

The Jail Administrator is responsible for requesting or notifying any outside agency such as Coroner's Office, State Law Enforcement Division, etc.

6. Immediately secure the scene. Treat area as a crime scene depending on the seriousness of the attempt. Protect all items for evidence.
7. Order that strip searches be conducted on those inmates identified as having recent contact (e.g. roommate, etc.) with the victim; to include serious attempts. Individually stage inmates identified as having recent contact with the victim to separate holding cells until interviewed by investigators. **Do not** search the room of the victim. Order rehousing of all non-involved inmates to other areas when necessary.
8. Order that no person inside the secure portion of the facility leave until otherwise directed. (If suicide is completed)
9. Order that no visitors be allowed into the secure portion of the facility until otherwise directed. (If suicide is completed)
10. When applicable, obtain the time lapsed surveillance recordings of the area.

11. Receive and review reports from involved officers.
12. Complete or review Summary Report and forward all originals to the Jail Administrator.
13. The Jail Administrator, in cooperation with the Medical Examiner, shall make next of kin notifications relating to inmate deaths.

C. Security Scissors

Security scissors are to be used in the intervention of suicide attempts by method of hanging or self-strangulation. The following procedures shall apply:

1. Security scissors have been placed at each post.
2. At the beginning of each shift, security scissors shall be accounted for by the appropriate supervisor(s) and inspected to ensure they are in proper working condition.
3. For safety, supervisors employing security scissors should not do so alone.
4. Officers aiding victims must do so with extreme caution. Suicide attempts may be staged in order to take hostages or to escape.
5. Security scissors are to be used solely in the removal of cloth, rope, laces, etc. from a suicide victim's neck, using the following guidelines:
 - a. When the victim is hanging from an elevated support, release the pressure on the neck by lifting the body weight, this should provide some slack in the ligature. The non-edged, outer surface of the security scissors should be placed between and to the side of the victim's neck and ligature. In the interest of evidence preservation and when possible, avoid cutting the knot on the ligature.
 - b. When the victim is hanging in a semi-sitting position (body partially on floor and against cell bars), the body weight should be lifted, providing some slack in the ligature. The ligature should be removed as outlined above.
 - c. When the victim is strangulating by means of a cloth ligature that is not tied to a support, the ligature should be removed as outlined above.
6. Once the ligature is removed, the victim, if unconscious, should be placed on his/her back, lying on the floor. Officers shall evaluate and treat the victim in accordance with their First Aid/CPR/AED training.

By order of:



Jim Stewart, Chief of Police

7-12-18
Date