



East Norriton Township Police Department

GENERAL ORDER 2.7.9

MENTAL HEALTH

Subject:

Legal Process

Issued Date:

March 23, 2011

Effective Date:

March 23, 2011

Revised Date:

June 3, 2015

PLEAC STANDARD Reference

2.7.8

Index Words

Mental Health

2.7.9 Legal Process - Mental Health

The purpose of this general order is to establish policies and procedures for the members of the East Norriton Township Police Department when dealing with Mental Illness. When an individual with mental illness is in crisis, adequate and appropriate responses must be provided to prevent a negative outcome. The police, as primary human service providers within the community, need to be sensitive to the needs of the mentally ill and be able to respond to mental health situations in a proactive, preventative, and professionally responsible manner.

It is the policy of the East Norriton Township Police Department to view mental illness emergencies as being within the scope of police service responsibility and to comply with the provisions of the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976

PROCEDURE

All Officers hired by the East Norriton Township Police Department are Act 120 Certified and receive basic training on Mental Illness in the police academy. Additionally, Officers shall receive training to recognize and respond to suspected mentally ill persons. Update training will be provided at least once every three years; in the event of a policy or statute change, update training shall occur within 90 days of the change, or as required by statute.

A. Mental Health Act

1. Voluntary mental health examination and treatment.
 - a. Officers responding to calls for service involving mental health issues shall provide assistance to individuals, families, or other persons seeking voluntary services under the mental health act to the extent possible.

This assistance may include, but not be limited to, encouraging an individual to seek treatment, transporting or arranging transportation to a medical or mental health facility, or arranging for contact with Montgomery County Emergency Services (MCES) or other mental health referrals.

2. Involuntary emergency mental health examination.

- a. Application for Examination.

Officers shall initially ask and provide assistance to a family member or other

responsible person, who has observed the individuals dangerous or suicidal behavior, to contact MCES, or other appropriate facility in order to seek an involuntary commitment.

b. Emergency examination without a warrant.

Police Officers, upon personal observation of the conduct of a person constituting reasonable grounds to believe that they are severely mentally disabled and in need of immediate treatment, and when no other family or authorized person is able to make application, shall take custody of such person and transport, or arrange for their transport to MCES or approved facility for an emergency examination.

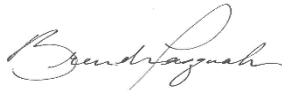
Upon arrival at the approved facility, the custodial officer shall complete the "Application for Involuntary Emergency Examination and Treatment" form, as provided for in the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976, section 302. In addition to the application, officers shall provide information to the receiving facility concerning the identity and observed behaviors of the person and assist with any other intake procedures required of the facility.

3. Criminal Proceedings not barred by proceeding with mental health examination.

- a. Although alternatives to arrest should be considered in managing persons with mental illness in order to keep them out of the criminal justice system, nothing in this order shall bar an officer from instituting any criminal charges for violations of criminal or other statutory laws of the Commonwealth or municipality when such proceedings are necessary and appropriate.

**Also see General Order 2.5.6 and 3.1.13

By order of:



Brandon Pasquale
Chief of Police