

SANTA CLARA POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 96.2

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND EVALUATIONS

AMENDED DECEMBER 2014

96.2.1 Mental Health Services and Evaluations

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure delivery of mental health services and to provide appropriate services to individuals with psychological impairment or who are experiencing suspected psychological emotional crisis and have come to the attention of the Police Department.

Mental Health Services

Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code provides that when a person is a danger to others, or to him/herself, or gravely disabled (unable to provide for his/her own personal needs of food, clothing and shelter) as a result of mental disorder, a peace officer (or designated qualified person) may, upon probable cause, take, or cause to be taken, the person into custody and place him/her in a facility designated by the County for evaluation and treatment.

Officers shall fully document the circumstances of their contact and all information pertinent to establishing the elements of 5150 W&I in ARS in an Offense Report. An emergency contact, including address and phone number, should be listed in the Offense Report for future reference. The documentation for the receiving facility shall be completed using the approved Application for 72-hour evaluation. This application form shall not be substituted for the Offense Report.

Individuals with conditions requiring immediate medical attention shall receive medical treatment prior to being taken to EPS.

Persons who do not meet the criteria set forth in 5150 W&I, but who desire mental health treatment, shall be provided assistance, which may include acting as an informational resource or making arrangements for voluntary treatment including transportation to a treatment facility.

The detention will not be considered an arrest. Therefore, no booking is required unless the person is also charged with a prosecutable offense.

Addresses of individuals who pose a threat to the police should be entered into the Officer Safety/Dispatch Information File maintained by Communications (see [General Order 81.2.9](#)).

96.2.2 Crisis Intervention Team

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers are specially trained to respond to incidents involving individuals who are mentally ill and pose a danger to themselves or others.

- Whenever possible, a uniformed CIT officer should respond to any call involving mentally ill individuals that pose a danger to themselves or others.
- Upon receiving a call involving a mentally ill person, who poses a danger to themselves or others, Communications will follow the standard dispatch protocol and request a CIT officer to respond.
- If the call involves weapons or the threat of weapons and there are no available Field Operations Division CIT officers, Communications will request, “any available CIT officer” to respond to the scene. If no CIT officer is available, Communications will assign the appropriate number of officers and advise, “No CIT available” over the air and in the CAD details, and will notify the responsible Field Supervisor.