



SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

INDEX CODE: 1803
EFFECTIVE DATE: 02-18-09

Contents:

- I. Policy
- II. Purpose
- III. First Officer on the Scene
- IV. Patrol Supervisor
- V. Proponent Unit
- VI. Cancellation

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Police Department to respond to threats of suicide and attempted suicides to prevent the loss of life and assist the victim in obtaining medical and psychiatric help.

II. PURPOSE

Cases of threatened suicide present so many varied situations that it is impossible to outline a specific course of action that might be applied in each and every case. Responding officers must apply good judgment and prompt efficient action.

III. FIRST OFFICER ON THE SCENE

- A. Take immediate steps to protect yourself and the public, if required.
- B. Assess the situation and determine what type of assistance is necessary; i.e., tactical personnel, negotiators, additional equipment, etc.
- C. Attempt to delay the suicide attempt, if at all possible.
- D. In cases where a suicide is averted:

1. Non-Custodial

If a suicide has been averted and the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) is on the scene, the officer will follow the recommendation of the MCT regarding future action, which may include transportation to a hospital where the investigating officer will petition for an emergency evaluation of the person, transfer to the care and custody of the family or significant others, other action, or no further action at the discretion of the MCT.

If the MCT is not present on the scene, the person should be taken to the hospital and the investigating officer should petition for an emergency evaluation of the person.

2. Custodial

If the suicide attempt occurs while in police custody, or if the person will be taken into police custody for reasons unrelated to the suicide attempt, the person will be taken to the hospital and the investigating officer will petition for an emergency evaluation of the person.

- E. If the suicide is successful, the case should be handled as a Medical Examiner case in accordance with Index Code 1802.

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IV. PATROL SUPERVISOR

A patrol supervisor will respond to and supervise the investigation of all suicide or attempt suicide cases.

V. PROPONENT UNIT: *Patrol Services* Bureau.

VI. CANCELLATION: This directive cancels Index Code 1803, dated 07-15-00.