




# Clayton County Police Department

# PROCEDURES

Subject <b>EVENT DECONFLICTION</b>			Procedure # <b>A12</b>
Authorizing Signature 	Effective <b>05-08-2025</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Rescinds	Total Pages <b>6</b>

## I. PURPOSE

To ensure the appropriate use of event deconfliction and the event deconfliction system for active investigations conducted by the Clayton County Police Department (CCPD). Event deconfliction, along with the sharing of event and investigative information with other law enforcement agencies, and proper case activation procedures enhance officer safety and the efficiency of criminal investigations.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Clayton County Police Department (CCPD) to engage in event deconfliction in an attempt to avoid dangerous confrontations and/or unintentional consequences for law enforcement personnel and citizens by entering qualifying events into the event deconfliction system. In most instances this policy will not apply to routine patrol-level investigations, but will assist in ongoing vice, drugs and organized crime investigations, as well as high-profile crimes, and other high-risk or specialized law enforcement activities that would benefit from event deconfliction.

## III. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy, the following words and terms shall have the meaning ascribed:

**Event:** An "event" is any law enforcement action, including, but not limited to, raids, undercover operations, surveillance, or the execution of arrest and/or search warrants.

**Event Deconfliction:** "Event deconfliction" is the process of determining when law enforcement personnel are conducting an event in close proximity to one another at the same time. By notifying a central location of a planned event prior to its execution, officers will not unknowingly target or conflict with another law enforcement officer or compromise another investigation. This is particularly important for agencies in concurrent or contiguous jurisdictions that are involved in high risk activities such as undercover operations, surveillances, execution of arrest and/or search warrants.

When certain elements (e.g. location, date and time) are matched between two (2) or more events/operations, a conflict (or hit) results. Immediate notification is then made by the deconfliction system to the involved agency personnel. The event deconfliction process is a pointer system, alerting officers that they may be operating near one another.

When a conflict exists, both agencies are notified in order for them to determine the nature of the conflict and individually decide the extent to which they wish to share case details.

Event Deconfliction System: A system designed to perform event deconfliction and notify appropriate law enforcement personnel that a conflict may exist.

Secure Accurate Fast Event Tracking Network (SAFETNet): SAFETNet is an internet-based system created for the purpose of providing participating law enforcement agencies the capability to facilitate and share active investigative target pointer information. Designed to be a true pointer system, rather than an intelligence system, SAFETNet serves as a vehicle for timely notification of active investigative conflicts.

Target: A “target” applies to subjects, gangs, locations, telephone numbers, vehicles, and other investigative information about criminal activity.

## **IV. PROCEDURES**

### **A. Event Deconfliction Systems**

1. There are three (3) nationally recognized event deconfliction systems currently used by law enforcement agencies:
  - a. Case Explorer is used by some High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) throughout the country;
  - b. The RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe) is used by Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) members, some HIDTAs, fusion centers, and other entities; and
  - c. The Secure Automated Fast Event Tracking Network (SAFETNet) is used by some HIDTAs and law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

The three (3) event deconfliction systems are connected using the interface solution known as the Partner Deconfliction Interface (PDI). The PDI serves as a pointer (or system-to-system) solution. When a submission is made into one (1) of the event deconfliction systems the PDI enables a query against the other two (2) systems. If a conflict is identified, information regarding that conflict is returned to the submitter. Notifications are made to the affected officers.

2. The CCPD shall utilize the services of the Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (ACHIDTA) Secure Automated Fast Event Tracking Network (SAFETNet) to deconflict investigations by submitting qualifying events and targets.

### **B. Responsibility**

1. Event deconfliction shall be pursued by sworn personnel of the Special Operations (Spec Ops) Division using methods and/or resources approved by the Chief of Police.
2. It is the responsibility of concerned supervisors to ensure that event deconfliction has been pursued, and that any conflicts are resolved prior to the commencement of a planned event.
3. Though this policy is specifically intended for sworn personnel of the Special Operations Division, it may be utilized by other Divisions/Units of the Department, as determined by the concerned chain of command, due to the totality of the circumstances. Consultation with the Special Operations Division Commander, or authorized designee, is recommended.
4. In the event that another Division/Unit in the Department determines an immediate need for event deconfliction, a Special Operations Division supervisor, or authorized designee, may be required and sought for guidance.

5. Generally, the lead detective, or authorized designee, will complete event deconfliction, as specified below.
  - a. At a minimum, event deconfliction shall be conducted through the AC HIDTA SAFETNet System (hereinafter referred to as the event deconfliction system).
  - b. The lead detective, or authorized designee, shall enter information for qualifying events through the event deconfliction system remotely using a secure internet connection or by telephone, to determine if the planned event interferes with an existing investigation.
    - 1) All submissions require a departmental case number;
    - 2) All submissions related to an active investigation must be accurate; and
    - 3) All submissions shall be made as soon as information is available, but at least two (2) hours prior to the event taking place, if possible.
  - c. The lead detective, or authorized designee, shall attempt to contact/notify any local jurisdictions or agencies who may not participate in any of the event deconfliction systems (i.e., Case Explorer, RISSafe, SAFETNet) that may be affected, when feasible.
  - d. The lead detective, or authorized designee, will communicate with other Divisions/Units involved in similar types of specialized investigations within the Department.

C. Qualifying Events [CALEA 46.2.8 (a)]

The lead detective or authorized designee, shall ensure that the following types of events/activities are entered into the event deconfliction system either online or by telephone.

1. The service of search and/or arrest warrants;
2. The planned arrest of a person immediately after they delivered or received, or attempted to deliver or receive, contraband to or from an officer or informant (buy-busts, reverse sting operations, controlled drug deliveries, stolen or burglarized property, etc.);
3. Taking delivery of any contraband from a suspect who is not arrested, but permitted to leave pending further investigation;
4. Informant or officer face-to-face meetings with suspects for the purpose of receiving, delivering, or negotiating the receipt or delivery of any contraband;
5. Approaching an individual at their place of domicile and requesting permission to search for any contraband ("knock and talk"), especially in anticipation of activities involving a felony crime or drug related crime;
6. Predetermined surveillance operations, whether stationary or mobile, including those occurring in the Department's jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of a non-participating law enforcement agency;
7. Covert activity by law enforcement personnel, or by informants acting under the direction of law enforcement personnel, that could initiate a response from citizens and/or local police who may reasonably believe a crime is in progress;
8. Fugitive operations which are operational (roundups);
9. Long-term covert operations (storefronts);
10. Any other high-risk or specialized law enforcement activities identified in state or local regulation or protocol that would benefit from event deconfliction; or
11. Any other circumstances or investigations deemed necessary by a Special Operations Division supervisor, other Department supervisor, or chain of command.

#### D. Information Entered into the Event Deconfliction System

Information entered into the event deconfliction system shall include all information required by such system, to include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Case number;
2. Type of event, e.g., raids, undercover operations, surveillance, or the execution of arrest and/or search warrants, etc.;
3. Date and time of the planned event;
4. Location of the event, including the exact street address and any staging areas;
5. Information about the suspect(s);
6. Lead agency name and participating agency name(s);
7. Name and agency of the contact person entering the event, including cellular telephone number, and a secondary point of contact for the event; [CALEA 46.2.8 (a)]
8. Search radius, if not preset by the deconfliction system; and
9. Any other information deemed applicable to the event or investigation.

#### E. Event Deconfliction Number

An event deconfliction identification (ID) number shall be obtained and incorporated into the corresponding case file(s), when an event is submitted into the event deconfliction system. In addition, any written *Action Plan(s)* related to the investigation shall include the event deconfliction ID number.

#### F. Discussion and Distribution of Deconfliction Information

1. Event deconfliction system users with conflicts are notified immediately via email, text or on screen and are provided with the other parties contact information. If a conflict, with another law enforcement agency or operation exists or arises, the lead detective or authorized designee, shall take all steps necessary to resolve the conflict in a timely manner, and prior to the date and time of the event, including, but not limited to, contacting the other party identified in the event notification. Investigating personnel must refrain from executing operations until identified conflicts have been resolved.
  - a. All known details of the conflict(s) will be discussed with a concerned supervisor to decide on the continuation of the investigation and/or any further law enforcement action by this Department.
  - b. Unresolved operational conflicts will be immediately referred to the Special Operations Division Commander, or authorized designee.
  - c. Any exemption or deviation from this procedure shall be considered on a case-by-case basis and approved only by the Special Operations Division Commander, or authorized designee.
2. Prior to taking any action directed at a target, and in addition to writing an *Action Plan*, the lead detective, or authorized designee, in conjunction with a concerned supervisor, shall conduct an operational briefing for all involved personnel to ensure they understand their roles, responsibilities, and the goals and objectives of the Department for the operation and target area. The briefing should cover relevant details, including hazards, procedures, safety measures, and the fact that event deconfliction was completed, and any known event conflicts will be discussed.

3. Employees who receive an event conflict notification and fail to make a good faith effort to resolve such conflict may be subject to civil, administrative, or criminal sanctions.

#### G. Authorized Users and Training

Authorized users are personnel with assignments that may require them to perform event deconfliction.

1. The Special Operations Division Commander, or authorized designee, shall be the administrator of all deconfliction systems utilized by the Department.
2. Sworn personnel assigned to the Special Operations Division shall establish an account with the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) at <https://esp.usdoj.gov/>.

Once EPIC access is granted, the employee(s) seeking access must email [deconfliction@achidta.org](mailto:deconfliction@achidta.org) in order to create a SAFETNet user account.

- a. This account exists so that sworn personnel can independently deconflict their own operations and targets by creating events and targets in the event deconfliction system. If the lead detective cannot deconflict, the responsibility shall be on the authorized designee with access to deconflict.
- b. In strictly emergency situations, when the lead detective, or authorized designee, cannot deconflict a case, then deconflictions may be sent to the administrators at [deconfliction@achidta.org](mailto:deconfliction@achidta.org) to assist.
3. Any officer or detective who routinely initiates qualifying events should establish an EPIC internet account. In order to do so, officers and/or detectives not assigned to the Special Operations Division will need to obtain authorization from their immediate supervisor. When authorized, the supervisor will forward the request to the Special Operations Division Commander, or authorized designee, for final approval. [CALEA 46.2.8 (b) and (d)]
4. Authorized users shall receive training enabling them to obtain appropriate security access and to navigate through the deconfliction system.

#### H. Data Retention

The underlying information and files used by this Department to submit information to an event deconfliction system are subject to the same data retention policy as all other similar information held by law enforcement personnel in accordance with the Georgia Records Retention Schedule, and are subject to public inspection pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act. In addition, nothing in this Act shall be deemed to change or supersede any purge, validation, or records retention policy established by an event deconfliction system for information submitted to and held by such system.

#### I. Confidentiality and Misuse of Information

1. Information submitted to an event deconfliction system is considered law enforcement sensitive and confidential and is **not** subject to the federal Freedom of Information Act or the Georgia Open Records Act, nor is it subject to civil, criminal, or administrative subpoena. [CALEA 46.2.8 (c)]
2. Personnel authorized to submit information to or access information held by an event deconfliction system **shall not**:
  - a. Submit information regarding any individual or address for any purpose not related to a legitimate criminal investigation; and/or

- b. Access information regarding any individual or address for any purpose not related to a legitimate criminal investigation.
- 3. No person who is **not** authorized to submit information to or access information held by an event deconfliction system shall make such a submission or query such system for any purpose.
- 4. Any misuse, as described in the above subsections (i.e., 2. and 3.) of this section by an employee shall subject them to disciplinary action up to and including termination, and/or criminal action.

J. Target and Investigative Information Deconfliction

- 1. Event deconfliction applies to geographical conflicts that occur at the same time and in the same proximity. Target and investigative activity deconfliction apply to subjects, gangs, locations, telephone numbers, vehicles, and other investigative information about criminal activity.
- 2. Upon opening an investigation on any crime, information shall be queried and/or stored through available national, regional, or local systems to determine whether another law enforcement agency has an ongoing investigation with common investigative information, to reduce parallel investigations and to promote investigative collaboration. If a conflict is discovered in either target or investigative activity, contact shall be made with the other agency to resolve and coordinate issues and information.

**V. CANCELLATION**

This procedure amends and supersedes the following standard operating procedure: *A12: Event Deconfliction*, dated June 24, 2022.