



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

1011 Ill or Injured Arrestees

Section 1000 – Patrol Functions

Effective Date: 4/19/2022

Supersedes Date: 7/30/2020

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to outline responses and obtain medical care for ill or injured arrestees, when in agency custody.

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 107 Physical Arrest](#)

[GO 1009 Arrestee Processing](#)

[GO 775 Searching of Arrestees](#)

[DL-1011-01 Hospital Guard Duty](#)

[DL-1011-02 Field Medical Clearances](#)

[P1-23 Wanted Persons/Vehicles](#)

.03 Discussion

A primary police goal is the protection of life. This directive establishes procedures to ensure that arrestees are transported in a manner that will maximize their safety, as well as the safety of the transporting officer when it is deemed necessary to obtain medical treatment. Transport of arrestees is a routine and frequent activity that increases the likelihood that officers will encounter arrestees who exhibit signs and symptoms of injuries and/or illnesses during the course of their duties.

.04 Policy

Officers will render aid, when possible, in accordance with training and best judgment, to injured or ill arrestees, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the illness or injury.

Medical attention will be provided for any arrestee who exhibits signs of:

- Physical distress
- Who has sustained visible injury
- Expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain
- Was rendered unconscious
- Who requests medical attention
- Who was the subject of a use of force using a conducted electrical weapon, OC, baton, or specialty impact munitions

It is the duty of the on-scene officer to ensure that the appropriate medical response is taken. This may include providing first aid consistent with training, requesting emergency medical services, arranging for transportation to an emergency medical facility, and/or obtaining a field medical clearance.

When arrestees are or become incapacitated or incapable of making the decision for themselves, officers should, in the best interest of the subject, seek emergency medical assistance in order to preserve health and life.

Ill or injured arrestees will be transported to any of the UC Health Memorial Hospitals (Memorial North, Memorial Central, or Grandview), Penrose Hospital, or St. Francis Hospital for medical treatment unless medical personnel (paramedics or physicians) determine a specific hospital is more appropriate.

Officers are permitted to wear their firearms while in a hospital or medical treatment facility and will remain cognizant of firearm safety and retention at all times, especially while in the presence of a arrestee.

.05 Definitions

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.10 Arrestee Transport

Transporting Injured or Ill Persons in Police Vehicles

Officers will administer first aid, on scene, in accordance with their training and knowledge.

Transportation of injured or ill arrestees in police vehicles should only be considered as a last resort, unless exigent or emergent circumstances exist, or are based upon officer discretion.

Officers will seek approval of supervisory personnel when determining to transport ill or injured persons in police vehicles unless emergent circumstances exist.

Additional personnel should be summoned to the scene, if not already present, to assist and ensure the scene remains secured.

Officers conducting the transport of ill or injured persons will ensure they exercise due care and caution while driving.

Unavailability of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

In the event EMS service is not available and will not be available for an extended period, officers may transport the ill or injured arrestee in a police vehicle. Officers will use their discretion in such a situation and believing the life of the injured arrestee is dependent upon immediate, professional medical aid. If medical personnel are not on the scene and a police transport is deemed necessary, the nearest trauma hospital will be used.

Violent, Uncooperative, & Flight Risk Arrestees

Officers transporting or accompanying a violent, uncooperative, or potential flight risk arrestee to a medical facility **will** request a secondary officer, prior to arriving at the facility. Both officers will accompany the suspect until medical treatment is completed, and the suspect is transported. Officers transporting or accompanying a violent suspect to a medical facility for treatment will stand by until all medical treatment is completed.

The suspect should remain, at a minimum, in flex cuffs during medical treatment, when possible. If a concern is raised by hospital personnel regarding the suspect remaining in flex cuffs during medical treatment, a CSPD supervisor will be notified for further direction. The officer will note the concern in the call for service notes.

Hospital security and medical personnel will be notified of the need to maintain security and safety.

Upon arrival at a medical facility, the officer transporting the arrestee will:

- Advise hospital emergency room of the arrestee's presence
- Complete all appropriate hospital forms in accordance with hospital procedures
- Ensure that the arrestee remains under control during the preliminary processing and triage
- Determine as soon as possible if the arrestee is going to be admitted or treated and released
- If the suspect is to be admitted, personnel will contact a supervisor for additional direction

When the preliminary tasks have been completed, the officer, having custody of the arrestee, will ensure that the appropriate dispositional procedure below is followed.

Physically & Mentally Disabled Arrestees

Physically and mentally disabled arrestees may present unique conditions for their transport that dictate special care and attention. For example, persons requiring wheelchairs, crutches, or prosthetic appliances may require the use of a type of vehicle that supports the transportation of non-ambulatory arrestees.

Officers will exercise discretion in accordance with ADA requirements when considering the needs of the disabled arrestee and document any/all accommodations permitted during the transport.

Additionally, it may be necessary to transport medicine and other special items for certain arrestees during transport.

.20 Arrestee Processing

If the suspect of a misdemeanor crime is **not** being admitted and absent an objective reason requiring personnel to initiate a booking process, the officer will follow established protocols by issuing the suspect a summons. If there are objective circumstances that could support booking the suspect (e.g. - the circumstances of the incident, having questions about the suspect's identity, or having questions as to whether or not the suspect will appear in court), officers will consult an on-duty supervisor to determine the viability of booking the suspect.

If the suspect of a felony crime is **not** being admitted, officers should follow established felony arrest protocols. If the suspect of a felony crime **is being** admitted, officers should consult an on-duty supervisor to determine whether or not guard duty should be established.

If guard duty is not established, the officer will complete a hospital hold request on the appropriate form(s). One copy of the form will be left with the hospital, and another will be left at the area command where the arresting officer is assigned. Each area command will maintain a central file for active hospital hold orders, typically at the duty desk.

Personnel should note the hold request is simply a request by law enforcement and adherence to the form is subject to the hospital's own policies. If hospital personnel elect not to comply with the hold request, officers will not take enforcement action against hospital personnel. In such a situation, officers will document that information in a supplement to the case associated with the hold request.

.40 Transport upon Hospital Release

Upon release of an arrestee from the hospital, the officer assigned for transporting the arrestee to the CJC will:

- Confirm the identity of the suspect and verify other relevant information (e.g., the existence of probable cause, etc.).
- Obtain all the personal property of the arrestee, including the arrestee's clothing. All property and clothing collected will be delivered to the detention facility by the transporting officer.
- Ensure that, if appropriate, physical evidence from the suspect's person or belongings is collected, including any clothing deemed to be evidence in the investigation.

.45 Further Medical Attention

Once a arrestee is accepted by the CJC, or any other detention facility, any further medical attention required or incurred will be the responsibility of that detention facility.

.50 Financial Responsibility for Medical Services

Medical responses, initiated by or resulting from CSPD personnel, does not, in any way, obligate the police department to render payment for the medical services provided. This is inclusive of injuries that were a result of lawful police action.

In the event an officer transports a arrestee to a hospital or medical facility for medical clearance, to safeguard that person's well-being, the financial responsibility for any/all medical services provided is incumbent upon the recipient of the medical treatment.

CSPD personnel does **not** have the authority to accept or imply financial responsibility on behalf of the city. Personnel will refrain from implying any acceptance, either written or verbal, of costs for medical services that may or may not be a result of police action.

CSPD will assume financial responsibility, through Memorial Hospital, **only** for the retrieval of blood evidence as part of a CSPD case or ongoing criminal investigation. CSPD will assume financial responsibility for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) examinations, at any medical facility, **only** when the crime occurred inside city limits, there is a named victim, and the sexual assault is reported to law enforcement. CSPD will **not** assume financial responsibility for anonymous or medical reporting only SANE exams; the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice will assume financial responsibility for these types of exams under the Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program. CSPD will also **not** assume financial responsibility for any other

hospital-provided services that may have been received at the same time the blood evidence collection or SANE exam is performed. Examples of this include emergency room fees, physician fees, etc.

Questions, comments, or concerns regarding the financial responsibility for medical services will be directed to the Fiscal Services Section.

Attachments

[Disclosures of PHI to Law Enforcement](#)

[University of Colorado Health - Investigative Request Form](#)