

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER: 1409

SUBJECT: Assisting Police Agencies with
Combative Prisoners

ACA STANDARDS: None

DIRECTOR: Herbert Bernsen

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/96

REVISION DATE: 9/97, 10/04, 6/09,
11/13, 1/15



I. POLICY

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services shall ensure that assistance is provided to police agencies who are experiencing difficulties dealing with combative or uncooperative prisoners upon arrival at the Intake Service Center.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

All St. Louis County Department of Justice Services' Intake Service Center staff are responsible for the following procedures.

III. DEFINITIONS

Fit for Confinement: A form prepared by a local hospital which states that a prisoner, after examination, is medically fit to be confined. The Corrections Medicine staff, after questioning and examining the prisoner, may also declare a person 'fit for confinement' or does not require a "fit for confinement", without requiring a hospital visit. A prisoner is not to be accepted by the Intake Service Center who is **not** 'fit for confinement'.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Occasionally, a police officer or a dispatcher for a police agency will notify the Intake Service Center of the impending arrival of a combative prisoner. The Intake staff member taking the call should ask the estimated time of arrival.

- [B. The Intake Service Center (ISC) staff member receiving the call shall then notify the ISC Shift Supervisor, who will coordinate available staff members to assist. The ISC Shift Supervisor shall then contact the Watch Commander, by phone or radio, *and request assistance if needed.*]

- [C. The Intake Shift Supervisor will secure the Law Enforcement Lobby by locking down all prisoners in the holding cells and halting movement through the area, *if necessary. If the holding cells are needed to handle the disturbance, all prisoners will remain seated on the bench.*]

- D. The Intake Shift Supervisor will greet the incoming police car or van in the Vehicle Sally port to immediately assess the situation. The Supervisor shall determine:
 - 1. If additional staff members are needed to assist
 - 2. If the prisoner requires immediate medical attention
 - 3. If the restraint chair is required. (See Policy #824 Use of Restraints)

- E. If the prisoner is in obvious medical distress, (e.g., bleeding from a wound, vomiting, etc.) the Shift Supervisor shall instruct the conveying officer to obtain a 'fit for confinement' prior to allowing the prisoner to exit the vehicle. (See Policy #1401 Acceptance of Prisoners)

- F. If the restraint chair is utilized, the Shift Supervisor and the assisting Corrections or Intake Officers will secure the prisoner in the restraint chair for the police officer, for transport into the Law Enforcement Lobby. At all times, the minimum amount of force necessary to restrain and control the prisoner will be used. (See Policy #823 Use of Force)

NOTE: If any Justice Services' staff members get involved in the movement of the prisoner and force has to be utilized, the Intake Shift Supervisor will complete all of the required incident reports and documentation required by the Use of Force policy.

- G. The Corrections Medicine staff will be required, upon further examination in the Law Enforcement Lobby, to determine if the prisoner is medically fit to be confined. The Corrections Medicine staff should have an officer(s) assisting at all times and shall not be left alone in the company of any uncooperative prisoners.

- H. After the prisoner has been accepted for processing, (See Policy #1401 Acceptance of Prisoners) he/she will be isolated in a holding cell until the Supervisor determines that their behavior will allow them to be processed according to the Intake Service Center procedures, without disrupting the work flow.