

## RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Steve Pitts		
Approving Deputy Chief: Mac Venzon		
General Order No P-270-04	Issued: June 10, 2004	Reviewed: Aug 15, 2012
General Order Title <b>MENTALLY ILL/MEDICAL TRANSPORT</b>		

### **POLICY**

This policy has been established for proper handling and transportation of mentally ill persons, and those individuals requiring non-emergency medical attention.

### **DEFINITIONS**

NRS 433A.115 States, "person with mental illness" means any person whose capacity to exercise self-control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of the person's affairs and social relations or to care for his or her personal needs is diminished, as a result of a mental illness, to the extent that the person presents a clear and present danger of harm to himself or herself or others, but does not include any person in whom that capacity is diminished by epilepsy, mental retardation, dementia, delirium, brief periods of intoxication caused by alcohol or drugs, or dependence upon or addiction to alcohol or drugs, unless a mental illness that can be diagnosed is also present which contributes to the diminished capacity of the person.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **Emergency Transport**

1. No officers of the Reno Police Department will transport an unconscious or injured subject requiring emergency medical attention in a police vehicle unless in an extreme emergency. It will be the responsibility of the officer to contact an emergency medical transportation unit to transport the subject to a medical facility for treatment. Once the injured subject has been checked and released by an attending medical authority, he or she may be transported to the Washoe County Detention facility for booking.
2. The Reno Police Department will make emergency commitments to the appropriate medical facility in accordance with NRS 433A.160, or when so ordered by a competent court.
3. In situations involving mentally ill persons and emergency commitments, per NRS 433A.165, officers will direct or bring said patients to either Washoe Medical Center

Emergency Room, or St. Mary's Hospital Emergency Room. The emergency room will serve as the triage point for such services. Law enforcement officers will be able to leave promptly and return to their primary duties provided the patient is neither acutely violent, nor placed on a "police hold."

### **Non-Emergency Transport**

The transportation of an individual by an officer in a non-emergency case will be made to a pre-determined hospital in accordance with the following geographic boundaries:

- Washoe Medical Center: East of Virginia Street.
- St. Mary's Hospital: West of Virginia Street.

Exceptions will be made only when the transported subject states a hospital preference or the nature of the emergency dictates otherwise. Said information will be supplied to hospital personnel as well as documented in the subsequent police report.

### **Transport from Other Facilities**

1. If an officer is requested to make a non-emergency medical transport from the jail or Wittenberg Hall, that transport must be approved by a supervisor. Hospital selection will be based on geographic guidelines.
2. The hospital will make arrangements for transporting patients to Nevada Mental Health Institute when required. If a mentally ill person is exhibiting violent behavior and represents a clear and present risk to himself or others, the emergency room physician may contact the Reno Police Department for assistance in transportation. A supervisor must evaluate said request to determine if police assistance is needed and justified.

### **Documentation of Transport**

When an officer transports an injured subject, a police report must be completed by the involved officer. For a courtesy transport, including transporting a mentally-ill subject, completion of a report will be at the discretion of the supervisor.