

## 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: Jason Soto/s/		
Approving Deputy Chief: Thomas Robinson/s/		
General Order No P-270-04	Issued: June 10, 2004	Revised: July 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
General Order Title <b>TRANSPORT OF INJURED OR SICK</b>		

### **I. POLICY**

The Reno Police Department places the highest priority on the safety and care of the people it serves. This policy has been established for proper handling and transportation of individuals requiring emergency medical care, non-emergency medical care and those suspected of having mental health issues.

### **II. DEFINITIONS**

Ambulance – As defined in NRS 450B.040, a motor vehicle which is specifically designed, constructed, equipped and staffed to provide emergency medical care for one or more sick or injured persons or persons whose medical condition may require special observation during transport.

Emergency Medical Care – provisions that accommodate persons needing immediate administration of drugs, medical procedures or observation until the persons can be seen by a doctor. Emergency Medical Care is provided by technicians certified by the State Board of Health and regulated by NRS Chapter 450B.

Mobile Outreach Safety Team (M.O.S.T.) – A program that involves the pairing of a licensed clinical M.O.S.T. therapist with a Reno Police Officer to provide resources to persons with mental illness.

Person with Mental Illness – as defined in NRS 433A.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Emergency Transport**

1. Whenever any employee of the Reno Police Department encounters unconscious persons, or sick or injured persons requiring emergency medical care, the employee will ensure an ambulance responds to evaluate the person(s) and transport the person(s) to a medical facility for treatment if necessary. The selection of medical facility shall be determined by the ambulance.

2. No employee of the Reno Police Department will transport unconscious persons, or sick or injured persons requiring emergency medical care in any department vehicle, however officers may conduct such transports in police vehicles only in extreme emergencies or in mass casualty situations when ambulances are delayed to the point that the person's care is jeopardized. In such situations, the officer will transport to the nearest medical facility.
3. Whenever an unconscious person or a sick or injured person requiring emergency medical care is subject to arrest, the arresting officer will ensure an ambulance is used to transport the person to a medical facility for treatment. Once the injured subject has been evaluated, treated and released by an attending medical authority, he or she may be transported to the Washoe County Detention facility for booking.
4. When an officer is transporting a person who during the transport, becomes unconscious or requires emergency medical care, the officer shall consider the following when deciding whether to transport the person to the medical facility in lieu of waiting for an ambulance:
  - a. The type of injury;
  - b. The distance to the nearest medical facility;
  - c. The estimated arrival at the nearest medical facility considering road conditions.

#### **B. Non-Emergency Transport**

1. At their discretion, officers may transport persons not requiring emergency medical care to a medical facility. 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:
  - a. Renown Medical Center: East of Virginia Street, north of S. McCarran Blvd.
  - b. St. Mary's Hospital: West of Virginia Street, north of S. McCarran Blvd.
  - c. Renown Medical Center South: South of S. McCarran Blvd.
  - d. Exceptions will be made only when the transported subject states a hospital preference.

#### **C. Mental Health Transport**

1. The Reno Police Department will make emergency commitments to the appropriate medical facility in accordance with NRS 433A.160 (Legal 2000 hold), or when so ordered by a competent court.
2. In situations involving mentally ill persons and emergency commitments, per NRS 433A.165, officers will direct or bring said patients to either Renown's Emergency Room, or St. Mary's Hospital's Emergency Room. The emergency room will serve as the triage point for such services.
3. Officers paired with a M.O.S.T. therapist may transport persons with mental illness to any medical facility in the Reno/Sparks area that would best suit the person's needs, so long as they are not in need of emergency medical services.

#### **D. Documentation of Transport**

When an officer transports an injured or sick subject, that fact must be documented in any

subsequent police report. If no police report is necessary, then the officer must make note of the transport in the incident comments of the Computer Aided Dispatch system. For courtesy transports, including transporting a mentally-ill subject, completion of a report will be at the discretion of the supervisor.