

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order ☒
Special Order ☐
Personnel Order ☐

ORDER NUMBER
420

Subject

Mental Health

Date of Issue

December 14, 2020

Effective Date

December 14, 2020

Expiration Date

**Until Amended or
Rescinded**

Issued by:

Michael Jackson, Chief of Police

Amends

Rescinds

Standard Number:

2.7.8

Distribution

- 1. General Order Manuals**
- 2. Records Manual**
- 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel**

I. Purpose:

It is the purpose of the order to establish policy and procedures regarding the proper legal treatment of those persons encountered by the Lower Providence Township Police Department who may be mentally ill in a compassionate and professional manner.

II. Policy

Based on the procedures outlined in the Mental Health Procedures Act, the following procedures shall be used in providing for voluntary and involuntary examinations to suspected mentally ill persons.

III. Procedure:

A. Process for providing involuntary examinations to suspected mentally ill persons.

1. Mental Health Act.
 - a. Voluntary examination and treatment.
 1. Officers responding to calls for service involving mental health issues shall provide assistance to individuals, families, or other persons seeking voluntary services under the Mental Health Act to the extent possible.
 2. This assistance may include, but not be limited to, engaging in dialogue of encouragement to seek treatment, transporting or arranging transportation to a mental health facility, arranging for contact with a crisis intervention agency or other mental health referrals.
 - b. Persons who may be subject to involuntary emergency examination and treatment.
 1. Severely mentally disabled.
 - a. A person is severely mentally disabled when, as a result of mental illness, their capacity to exercise self-control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of their affairs and social relations, or to care for their own personal

needs, is so lessened that they pose a clear and present danger of harm to others or to themselves.

2. Determination of clear and present danger.

- a. To others – Is shown when, within the past 30 days, the person has inflicted or attempted to inflict serious bodily harm on another and that there is a reasonable probability that such conduct will be repeated.
- b. To self – Is shown when within the past 30 days:
 - i. The person acted in such a manner that they would be unable, without care, supervision and the continued assistance of others, to satisfy their need for nourishment, personal or medical care, shelter, or self-protection and safety, and that there is reasonable probability that death, serious bodily injury or serious physical debilitation would ensue within 30 days unless adequate treatment was afforded.
 - ii. The person has attempted suicide and there is reasonable probability of suicide unless adequate treatment is afforded under the Act. This includes threats to commit suicide along with the commission of acts that are in the furtherance of the threat to commit suicide.
 - iii. The person has substantially mutilated themselves, or attempted to mutilate themselves substantially, and that there is the reasonable probability of mutilation unless adequate treatment is afforded. This includes threats to mutilate themselves along with the commission of acts that are in the furtherance of the threat to mutilate themselves.

c. Involuntary emergency mental health examination.

1. Application for examination.

- a. Officers shall provide the necessary assistance to family members, or anyone with standing, who has observed the conduct necessary for an “Application for Examination”, in contacting a crisis intervention agency, a physician, or other authorized person, required to process an application when indicated by a person’s behavior.

2. Emergency examination without a warrant.

- a. Officers, upon personal observation of the conduct of a person constituting reasonable grounds to believe that they are severely mentally disabled and in need of immediate treatment, and when no other family or authorized person is able to make application, shall take custody of such person and transport, or arrange for their transport, to an approved facility for an emergency examination.
- b. Upon arrival at the approved facility, the officer shall complete the “Application for Involuntary Emergency Examination and Treatment” form, as provided for in the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976, Section 302.
- c. In addition to the application, officers shall provide information to the receiving facility concerning the identity and observed behaviors of the person and assist with any other intake procedures required of the facility.

2. Criminal proceedings not barred by proceeding with mental health examination.

- a. Although alternatives to arrest should be considered in managing persons with mental illness in order to keep them out of the criminal justice system, nothing in this General Order requiring mental health processes shall bar an officer from instituting any criminal proceeding for acts committed in violation of criminal or other statutory laws of the Commonwealth or municipality when such proceedings are necessary and appropriate.

B. Initial training provided for recognition and response to suspected mentally ill persons.

1. Entry level training.

- a. All agency personnel who may be in contact with persons with any mental illness shall receive initial training in both the recognition of and the response to mentally ill persons.

C. In-service training required.

1. All agency personnel shall receive in-service training in any area of mental illness recognition at least once annually in a manner determined by the department.
2. When applicable mental health statutes or departmental policy changes occur, training shall be required within ninety (90) days, or as required by any statutory provisions.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police