


# PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

	<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> 271
	<b>INJURED/SICK PERSONS</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b> 02/19/2008
	<b>CHAPTER: PATROL</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> 02/19/2008
	<b>ISSUED By:</b> Chief of Police John E. Howell	<b>TOTAL PAGES</b> 2

## I. POLICY

Emergency comfort care provided by a law enforcement officer to any injured or sick person shall be done where the person is found. Medical professionals warn against unnecessarily handling or moving the injured due to the risk of aggravating after-effects or extended hospitalization of the injured person. Officers will attempt to provide whatever comfort they can until professional medical care can be obtained. There may be emergency situations requiring the immediate removal of seriously injured or critically ill persons from a position of imminent danger. The decision must, in all instances, be based on the safety and protection of the victim.

## II. PROCEDURES

- A. INJURED PERSONS:** Persons who are taken into custody with visible injuries or convincing complaints of an injury shall be provided with professional medical care prior to incarceration.
1. If hospitalization is required, a misdemeanor suspect will be released to the examining physician. The arresting officer shall issue the appropriate citation to the suspect setting a location, time and date for court appearance.
  2. If hospitalization is required for an arrested felony suspect the patrol division commander shall be notified, and should a clear danger of escape be present, a law enforcement guard may be assigned to the suspect until released and processed according to the law.
  3. Should an officer respond to a call involving a person who has fallen or is otherwise seriously injured and no violation of the law is considered, the victim will be provided with appropriate aid and comfort. The officer shall call for emergency transportation service.
  4. In all cases a complete written report shall be prepared giving all information available and action taken by the officer.

- B. SICK PERSONS:** An officer responding to a call to assist a person who is ill, shall provide immediate assistance and comfort and shall make necessary arrangements for the transportation of the ill person to a health care professional of their choice.
1. Any person who is unconscious or unable to give any information or make a decision concerning their physician of choice shall be transported to the closest health care facility for treatment.
  2. A complete written report will be prepared by the officer providing this assistance, citing the circumstances and action taken by the officer.