


PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

	SUBJECT:	POLICY NUMBER 1055
	TRANSPORTING MENTAL PATIENTS	ISSUE DATE 02/19/2008
	CHAPTER: ARREST PROCEDURES	EFFECTIVE DATE 02/19/2008
	ISSUED By: Chief of Police John E. Howell	TOTAL PAGES 2

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set for guidelines to take into custody and transport mentally disturbed persons.

II. POLICY

- A.** In the absence of a clear and present danger, no mental patients will be taken into custody or transported without a court order. A clear and present danger is defined as circumstances in which the person has inflicted serious bodily injury on themselves or others, or has threatened such conduct and there is a reasonable probability that such conduct will occur.
- B.** Forced entry may be used in emergency situations. The shift commander will decide whether to force entry to a residence after considering the following factors:
 - 1. Whether the person has inflicted serious bodily harm on himself or has attempted suicide and there is a reasonable probability the behavior will be repeated; or
 - 2. Whether the person has threatened to inflict serious bodily injury on himself and there is a reasonable probability that such conduct will occur; or
 - 3. Whether the person's behavior demonstrates that he so lacks the capacity to care for his own welfare that there is a reasonable probability of death, serious bodily injury, or serious physical or mental debilitation; or
 - 4. Whether the person had inflicted, attempted to inflict, or threatened to inflict serious bodily harm on others, and there is a reasonable probability that such conduct will occur.

- C.** Handcuffs and or other approved restraints will be used in accordance with departmental regulations when a patient has demonstrated by words or actions the potential for violence.
- D.** A reasonable amount of force, short of deadly force, may be used, if necessary, to secure a person for transport.
- E.** A report will be made on all mental patient contacts. Every use of force will be documented in detail. The use of handcuffs or other restraints will be documented along with the words or action(s) that led to their use.
- F.** Court orders for transporting mental patients will be routed through the inmate clerk during regular business hours. After hours, weekends and holidays, the shift commander will arrange transport. A copy of the order and the report will be put in the inmate clerk's box. The shift commander will provide officers for transporting mental patients whenever the transport officer is unavailable or requires assistance with a transport.
- G.** Mental patients will be transported to the facility designated in the order, unless emergency medical treatment is needed. When a patient has been taken into custody for transport in a situation involving a clear and present danger to the patient or others, that person will be taken directly to Jefferson Regional Medical Center or the Southeast Arkansas Mental Health Center, whichever is appropriate.