

ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE	NUMBER: 13.06 PAGES: 1 of 3
	RELATED ORDERS: ACA 4-ALDF-4C-32, 4D-08 MJS 1029(a)(7), 1206, 1219 P&P 8.12 , 8.13
	ISSUED DATE: June 1, 1992
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CHAPTER: Medical and Health Care Services	SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention

- I. **PURPOSE:** To establish policy and procedure for preventing suicide threats and attempts.
- II. **POLICY:** In order to protect the health and wellbeing of incarcerated persons, a written suicide prevention and intervention program, that is reviewed and approved by a qualified medical or mental health professional, shall be maintained. All staff responsible for inmate supervision shall be trained in implementing the program. Every effort will be made to recognize the signs and symptoms of suicidal behavior and to deter *any* threats *or* attempts *of suicide*. This will be done through continued monitoring by *custodial* personnel, medical staff, the facility chaplain *and mental health professional*.

III. **PROCEDURE:**

A. TRAINING IDENTIFICATION:

1. All security staff will receive training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental illness, and depression that could lead to suicidal behavior.
2. Jail personnel, sworn and non-sworn, must remain constantly alert to behavioral changes which might indicate increasing depression and/or expressing thoughts of suicide. Good communication between *the Sheriff's Office* and medical/mental health personnel will ensure *a collaborative effort* in *monitoring the welfare of the inmates*. Certain times during confinement represent more serious threat (e.g., after arrest, after court dispositions, during domestic upheaval in the inmate's family).
3. Any inmate reported or suspected of being depressed or having a mental disorder will be evaluated immediately by mental health and medical personnel and referred to the facility chaplain when appropriate.

B. SUICIDE GESTURES: The following procedures shall be followed when handling suicide gestures:

1. Call for medical aid immediately and notify a supervisor.
2. Stay with the inmate until medical staff arrives.
3. Medical staff will determine if a referral to CJMH needs to be immediate, or if the inmate may be scheduled for a routine CJMH appointment. Until a determination is made, the inmate will be monitored by medical staff and will be reevaluated every shift until a psychiatric referral is made.
4. If the inmate is not referred to CJMH, one of two alternative actions will be employed.
 - a. Open observation:
 - 1) At Santa Rita Jail, male inmates will be re-housed in a special handling unit. Female inmates will **remain** in Housing Unit 24. If Classification determines the inmate can be housed with other inmates, the inmate will be **re-housed to** a double capacity cell. If Classification determines the inmate must be housed separately, the inmate will be housed in a single cell.
 - 2) Inmates will be seen by psychiatric personnel as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after notification by medical staff. If possible, the inmate should interact with other inmates during meals, recreation, etc. Any changes in behavior will be reported to medical staff.
 - b. If the inmate is classified to administrative isolation, the inmate must be placed in a single cell and isolated from all other inmates at all times. All rights and privileges afforded to administrative isolation inmates will be in effect, with the exception of those that may cause harm to the inmate.
 - c. Based on the severity of the inmate's condition, he/she may be placed in a safety cell. Safety cell placements will be done pursuant to Policy and Procedure [8.13](#), "Use of Special Cells, Multi-Use Rooms, and Modesty Garments."
 - d. While housed in a safety cell, medications will be unit dosage. No clothing, linen, water cups, or armbands will be allowed in the cell, with the exception of a modesty garment.
5. If the inmate will be housed in a cell other than an observation or safety cell, the Classification Unit will coordinate housing needs and observation logs with the medical staff.
6. Whenever an inmate has made a suicide gesture, an observation log shall be initiated pursuant to Policy and Procedure [8.12](#), "Observation and Direct Visual Supervision Logs." A Safety Cell Placement Report will be written when an inmate is placed in

a safety cell.

C. SUICIDE ATTEMPTS: When deputies are handling suicide attempts:

1. Call for medical aid immediately, and notify a supervisor.
2. Stay with the inmate until medical staff arrives.
3. Medical personnel will treat the inmate and may refer him/her to a special handling unit, or the appropriate hospital if necessary.
4. Initiate inmate injury and incident reports.
5. If a CJMH staff member or deputy determines that an inmate meets 5150 W.I. criteria, the inmate will be taken to the appropriate hospital.
6. If the inmate will be housed in a cell other than the observation or safety cell, the Classification Unit will coordinate housing needs and observation logs with the medical staff.
7. Completed observation logs and reports will be forwarded to the Classification Unit.