



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual Chapter Contents



Chapter 21 Patrol

(Click on Section)

Section 01 Responsibility and Authority

Section 02 Patrol Operations

Section 03 *Reserved*

Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

Section 05 *Reserved*

Section 06 Community Policing Program

Section 07 Civil Citations for Qualifying Marijuana Violations

Section 08 Vehicle Impound and Release

Section 09 Shoplifting

Section 10 Vehicle Towing Procedures

Section 11 Unattended and Abandoned Vehicles

Section 12 Unattended Deaths

Section 13 Seizure of Non-Prescription Opioids

Section 14 Home Detention Enforcement

Section 15 Persons with Mental Health Issues



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 01 Responsibility and Authority

GO 17-021, 11/07/2017
Supersedes Go 17-018

A. Policy

1. The Aberdeen Police Department is charged with safeguarding the lives of all persons within the City of Aberdeen, protecting property, and assisting in securing to all persons equal protection of the law.
 - a. These policies and procedures are for Department use only and do not apply in any criminal or civil proceedings.
2. Violations of these policies and procedures will only form the basis for Department administrative sanctions, a higher level of training, and/or new policy guidelines.
3. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.
4. To enable them to perform their sworn duties, officers have been given and shall exercise full police authority within the territorial limits of Aberdeen.

B. Vehicle Laws

1. This Department will enforce the vehicle laws throughout Aberdeen except:
 - a. On private community owned roadways with access restricted exclusively to community members unless specifically requested to enforce the provisions of the Transportation Article pertaining to accidents, the duty to give information and render aid, and the furnishing of required accident reports.
 - b. Also, upon request, proper enforcement will be taken for violations dealing with reckless and negligent driving endangering the safety of persons or property, driving while intoxicated or while driving ability is impaired by consumption of alcohol or under the influence of drugs, and fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.

C. Authority and Responsibilities

1. The authority and responsibilities of the members of this Department, with respect to the enforcement of the law, are concurrent with similar authority and responsibilities conferred by law upon other law enforcement agencies in their respective jurisdictions within the City.
2. Effective law enforcement requires cooperation among all law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to the prompt collection, analyzing, exchange, and dissemination of information in order to provide efficient utilization of equipment and personnel.
3. The duties imposed upon the members of this Department should be applied to promote effective cooperation with all other law enforcement agencies.

D. Use of Discretion (1.2.7)

1. Officers may exercise reasonable discretion in the enforcement of laws depending upon the possibility that an alternative to police action can accomplish the purpose of the law.
2. Officers shall not exercise discretion in an unlawfully discriminatory manner.

E. Limited Extra-Jurisdictional Authority for Police Officers

1. Police officers are granted authority to make warrantless arrests and conduct investigations, subject to jurisdictional authority, under the following circumstances, and subject to these limitations:



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 17-021, 11/07/2017
Section	01	Responsibility and Authority	Supersedes Go 17-018

- a. A person commits or attempts to commit a felony or misdemeanor in the presence of or within the view of such officer;
- b. An officer has probable cause to believe that a felony or misdemeanor is being committed in the officer's presence or within the officer's view, may arrest without a warrant any person whom the officer may reasonably believe to have committed such offense;
- c. An officer may arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that a felony has been committed or attempted, and that such person has committed or attempted to commit a felony whether or not in the officer's presence or view;
- d. Certain other offenses have been committed, and unless the person is immediately arrested:
 - 1) The person may not be apprehended;
 - 2) The person may cause injury to the person or damage to the property of one or more persons; or
 - 3) The person may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy evidence.

2. A Police Officer of the Department may exercise Extra-Jurisdictional authority and make a warrantless arrest outside Aberdeen when:

- a. Participating in a joint investigation with officials from other State, federal, or local law enforcement agency;
- b. Rendering assistance to a police officer;
- c. Acting at the request of a local or state police officer;
- d. A qualifying emergency exists; and
- e. The officer is acting according to the following sections.

3. Emergency Defined

- a. A sudden or unexpected happening or an unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action to protect health, safety, welfare or property of an individual from actual or threatened harm or from an unlawful act.
- b. The procedure limits this authority to the following:
 - 1) Felony in progress;
 - 2) Violent misdemeanor in progress;
 - 3) Destruction of property which could result in injury or death;
 - 4) Probable cause to believe a felony has been committed or attempted; or,
 - 5) Destruction of evidence.
- c. Notification Required
 - 1) When exercising this authority, notifications must be given to the head of the law enforcement Department with primary jurisdiction where the action takes place.

4. Requirements and Prohibitions when Exercising Extra-Jurisdictional Arrest Authority:



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 17-021, 11/07/2017
Section	01	Responsibility and Authority	Supersedes Go 17-018

- a. Officers acting pursuant to this procedure must act in conformance with law.
- b. Officers must act in a professional manner so as not to reflect discredit upon themselves or the Department.
- c. Officers must abide by the rules and regulations of the Department.
- d. Extra-Jurisdictional Arrest Authority, Officers
 - 1) Officers may not enforce the provisions of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Law beyond Aberdeen.
 - 2) Officers must be serving in a full duty capacity, without restrictions or limitations.
 - a) For example, officers assigned to light duty, disability leave, or with suspended police powers, are prohibited from exercising police powers under this procedure, except in the gravest of circumstances;
 - 3) Officers may not serve arrest warrants, unless in conjunction with the lawful exercise of extra jurisdictional authority.
- e. Officers must be properly equipped.
 - 1) Officers will carry their badge, identification card, and authorized weapon whenever exercising the authority granted by this procedure.
 - 2) Consideration should be given to the equipment available and the possibility of injury to the officer, the suspect, or a third party in the event action is taken without the presence of essential equipment and/or availability of back-up assistance, to accomplish a lawful arrest.
- f. Officers may not use their personal vehicles or unauthorized equipment.
- g. Officers may not use this authority while working within the scope of a security type secondary employment (outside Aberdeen) position, except if acting at the request of or rendering assistance to another officer;
- h. Officers may not use the authority granted to facilitate or solicit secondary employment activities that would require or place the officer in a position to make arrests for a prospective employer.

5. When an officer exercises Extra-Jurisdictional Arrest Authority the following is required:

- a. First, consideration must be given to notifying on duty in jurisdictional police officers to have them take the necessary enforcement action;
- b. Assessment of the consequences of that officer's actions to include the possibility of injury to himself or herself, the suspect or a third party, and must consider whether adequate information is available to arrest the suspect at a later time;
- c. If practical, the officer should identify himself or herself to the suspect as a police officer by displaying his or her badge or identification card, and announcing your intention to arrest.
- d. The Officer must be prepared to identify himself or herself to citizens in the vicinity, and to responding police officers.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 17-021, 11/07/2017
Section	01	Responsibility and Authority	Supersedes Go 17-018

e.	Arrest the individual in a lawful manner by securing the suspect in a safe, efficient way that assures the arrestee's safety and security, without unnecessarily endangering the suspect, yourself or third parties.
f.	Seize and protect any evidence.
g.	Notify, or cause the notification to be made to the local law enforcement department having primary jurisdiction where the arrest is made, and request assistance in securing and transporting the arrestee.
h.	Except in extreme circumstances, do not attempt to transport the arrestee.
i.	Wait for assistance from the local jurisdiction, if possible.
j.	If it is necessary to transport without local jurisdiction support, transport only so far as necessary to obtain adequate assistance.
k.	Identify yourself to officers responding to the scene by displaying your badge and identification card. Follow the orders of the officers arriving on the scene.
l.	Be guided by direction from on-scene local police officials exercising supervisory control over the incident.
m.	Cooperate and participate in the handling of the arrestee and handling of evidence.
n.	As soon as possible, notify or cause notification to be made to this Department.
o.	Prepare court documents insuring the placement of any charges against the arrestee and cooperate with the court officer, as directed.
p.	Cooperate with the local jurisdiction in preparing the necessary reports, including administrative reports, and the submission of evidence.
q.	Normally, the local jurisdiction will have responsibility for completing offense reports on the incident; and, <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Obtain copies of the local Jurisdiction's field and investigative reports, and any other pertinent documentation, and submit copies to this department, attached to a report, titled "Extra-Jurisdictional Arrest."2) If applicable, officers will complete any other reports, forms or documents required by this department under these circumstances, such as overtime slips, use of force reports, first report of injury, etc.
6.	Notification Requirements <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The arresting officer will, as soon as possible, notify this Department's shift supervisor.
7.	Joint Investigations <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. When joint investigations are initiated in another jurisdiction, the designated person in that jurisdiction will be notified in a "reasonable time in advance."<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) What constitutes a reasonable time in advance may depend on the nature and object of the investigation.b. Where notice in advance would endanger the life and safety of investigators or seriously compromise the effectiveness of the investigation, a "reasonable time in advance" may be abbreviated.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 17-021, 11/07/2017
Section	01	Responsibility and Authority	Supersedes Go 17-018

- 1) In such cases, the delay in notification must be approved by the Chief of Police. Notice should then be made at the first reasonable opportunity, as determined by the Chief of Police.
- c. Notice must be given to each jurisdiction in which it is probable that an investigation will occur. In the event that an investigation occurs unexpectedly in a jurisdiction for which no advance notice has been given, notice must be given at the first reasonable opportunity.
- d. Before participating in any joint investigation with another state, local, or federal law enforcement department, officers must obtain permission from the Chief of Police.
- e. The investigative team shall include, as one of its members, an officer with jurisdiction in the focus of the investigation, assigned by the Chief Executive Officer of that jurisdiction.
- f. Officers assigned to joint investigations must observe the regulations of this Department in the course of the investigation.
- g. If practicable, the officer having jurisdiction where the investigation takes place will take any enforcement actions required (e.g. make arrests, serve warrants, effect search).
- h. The officer shall notify his supervisor immediately when the investigation terminates, and submit a final report.
- i. If an officer is summoned to testify concerning a joint investigation, he/she shall follow the procedures of this Department.

8. Rendering Assistance/Acting at Request/Emergency:

- a. Limit action to that which will stabilize the situation.
- b. Officers should consider three questions before acting under this authority:
 - 1) Will I be in danger if I act?
 - 2) Will civilians be in danger if I act?
 - 3) Will the suspect escape?
- c. Notify or have notified the primary responsible police department that has jurisdiction, if not already on the scene.
- d. Remain at the scene until the arrival of the primary police department and render assistance if requested.
- e. Report the incident and extent of involvement to supervisors immediately upon being relieved from the scene and, upon return to duty, furnish a written report of the incident.

9. Extra-Jurisdictional Arrests Within the City of Aberdeen

- a. Generally, an officer from another agency who takes action outside his/her sworn jurisdiction pursuant to this statute has the same responsibilities as if they were in their own jurisdiction.
- b. If the officer from a foreign jurisdiction makes an arrest, the responding officer, shall follow usual arrest procedures, including:



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 17-021, 11/07/2017
Section	01	Responsibility and Authority	Supersedes Go 17-018

1)	Upon notification of an arrest, shall respond promptly to the scene and assume control of the situation, including giving direction to the arresting officer.
2)	Render assistance to injured parties.
3)	Secure the scene.
4)	Act to preserve evidence.
5)	Take physical custody of the prisoner from the arresting officer.
6)	Arrange for transport, medical attention, if necessary, and processing of the prisoner.
7)	Accompany the arresting officer to the station. Obtain all information necessary to complete field reports.
8)	Instruct the arresting officer to complete a written statement, which is attached to your Offense Report.
9)	Provide the arresting officer with copies of the entire report, and all supplements, when completed.

10. Booking Procedures

a.	Accept custody of the prisoner from the arresting officer.
b.	Process the prisoner according to established procedure, and make arrangement for transport before a Court Commissioner.
c.	Assume responsibility for the welfare of the prisoner.

11. Accepting Notification

a.	The Chief of Police will accept notifications of joint investigations within Aberdeen.
b.	The on-duty supervisor is designated to accept notification of enforcement actions taken within this jurisdiction pursuant to statute.
c.	The on-duty supervisor accepting notification will send a copy of the crime/arrest report to the Chief of Police, via Chain of Command, within 72 hours of the arrest.

12. Injuries

a.	A police officer who is injured while taking enforcement action pursuant to this procedure and this statute is entitled to workman's compensation, disability, death benefits, life insurance and all other benefits to the same extent as if the injury had been sustained in Aberdeen.
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13. Property Damage:

a.	Damage to, or loss of equipment, shall be handled in accordance with existing procedures.
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F. Contracts for Law Enforcement Services

1.	Contracts for law enforcement services provided by the Aberdeen PD shall be identified in written agreements.
2.	The employments rights of personnel assigned under a contract for law enforcement services are not abridged by the provider agency. (3.1.2)



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

GO 17-021, 11/07/2017

Section 01 Responsibility and Authority

Supersedes Go 17-018

3. Participation in a contracted law enforcement service arrangement will not penalize participating employees, nor threaten employment rights, promotional opportunities, training opportunities, or benefits. (3.1.2)

G. Interagency Agreements and Concurrent Jurisdiction

1. The Aberdeen Police retains primary responsibility for the City of Aberdeen corporate limits, unless specified otherwise in an interagency agreement. (2.1.2)



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 02 Patrol Operations

GO 20-009, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 18-075

A. Policy

1. The operations of Patrol include all activities associated with law enforcement such as, but not limited to: responding to calls for service; investigating crimes and motor vehicle crashes; maintaining order; pursuing, subduing, and disarming suspects; performing arrests; securing and processing crime scenes; enforcing traffic laws; performing community policing activities; and documenting activities and services.

B. Patrol Coverage (41.1.1a)

1. The Aberdeen Police Department provides patrol coverage 24 hours a day, to enable the citizens of Aberdeen to have adequate law enforcement services.
2. The Department provides the same services at all hours of the day or night in relation to answering calls for service, emergency, preventive patrol, traffic enforcement, etc.
3. The Patrol Lieutenant is responsible for assigning police officers to shifts. (41.1.1b)
4. Patrol officers on regular shift duty should remain in their assigned areas to respond to calls for services and criminal activity until the oncoming shifts have checked in-service for shift change.
5. Patrol Shifts are composed of teams of officers, each of which has scheduled days of work and scheduled days off from duty.

C. Patrol Shifts (41.1.1a)

1. Department Patrol is divided into two shifts:
 - a. Shift 1, 0600 – 1800 hours; and
 - b. Shift 2, 1800 – 0600 hours.

D. Shift Rotation (41.1.1c)

1. Shift rotation occurs every 2 months.

E. Shift Change for Continuous Patrol Coverage (41.1.1a)

1. To provide and maintain patrol coverage continuously during shift change, each shift has overlap officers built into the shift plan.
2. It will be the responsibility of the Shift Supervisor to ensure that all information presented at regular briefing is later passed on to the early car officers.
 - a. The overlap officers will be assigned to any complicated or complex calls, which will eliminate holding over personnel from a shift who are due to go off-duty.
3. PCO's will immediately contact the Shift Supervisors when either the number of calls for service or the nature of the calls demands more manpower than is currently available.
4. Shift Supervisors may assign additional units on the street or hold units over as required.

F. Reporting Status Changes to Communications Section

1. All on-duty Patrol officers shall notify the Communications Section of their status when they are:
 - a. In Service;
 - b. On Assignment (Unavailable to Answer Calls for Service); and



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 02 Patrol Operations

GO 20-009, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 18-075

c. Out of Service.

G. Communications, Coordination, and Cooperation with Other Departmental Functions (12.1.4)

1. All patrol officers will cooperate and exchange information with investigators and personnel of other areas of the Department.
2. This cooperation and exchange is accomplished by, but not limited to:
 - a. Attendance by investigators at roll call sessions to share information about current activities, areas of needed assistance, intelligence information, etc.;
 - b. Attendance of all supervisory personnel at monthly staff meetings, where matters of departmental and shifts or section matters are discussed, and ideas exchanged;
 - c. Daily review of offense/incident reports by all patrol and investigative personnel.
 - 1) Miscellaneous information may be made available by utilization of information boards.
 - 2) This review should trigger the sharing of information and assistance;
 - d. Review of and input from all personnel in the development of new policies and/or procedures.

H. Foot Patrols

1. The Chief of Police has directed shift supervisors to have officers conduct regular foot patrols.
2. Foot patrol locations may include:
 - a. Shopping centers;
 - b. Public parks;
 - c. Open space;
 - d. Isolated business locations;
 - e. Apartment complexes; and
 - f. Other residential and business areas.
3. Officers conducting foot patrols should speak with as many different citizens as possible.

I. Requests for Extra Patrol (Premise Checks)

1. Officers will perform extra patrol checks when requested.
2. Police Communications Officers receive requests for extra patrol to check businesses and residences.
3. PCO's shall send an email to all personnel, listing the location and identifying whether it is a residence or a business, the times requested, and contact information of the requestor.

J. Removal of Debris from Roadway (61.4.2)

1. Hazardous debris on roadways is potentially a contributing factor in many traffic accidents.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 02 Patrol Operations

GO 20-009, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 18-075

2. It is incumbent upon officers of the Aberdeen Police Department to act to eliminate any hazardous conditions or debris existing on the roadways within the City.
3. If traffic conditions permit, the officer will remove the debris from the traveled portion to the side of the highway and alert the proper government department for further removal.
4. If traffic volume and patterns are such that the officer cannot safely remove the debris or if the debris is of a type that cannot be removed by the officer, the officer should take necessary steps to minimize the hazards.
5. Action such as diverting traffic, setting warning flares, etc. may be necessary in addition to ensuring that the appropriate government department is notified.
6. In all cases when the Department is notified of debris in the roadway, the PCO shall initiate a CAD entry. (61.4.2)

K. Allocation of Personnel (16.1.2)

1. Allocation of personnel to patrol shifts is based on the following workload assessment analysis:
 - a. Number of incidents handled by patrol personnel during a specified period;
 - b. Average time required to investigate an incident at the patrol level, as indicated in the workload reports;
 - c. Calculation of time necessary for a patrol officer to investigate incidents during a typical shift.
 - d. Time lost through days off, holidays, sick leave, etc., compared to the total time required for each patrol assignment.
2. The Patrol Lieutenant will conduct an annual Personnel Allocation Assessment using the following information:
 - a. Calculate the assignment/availability factor for patrol personnel.
 - 1) This factor is a ratio representing the total potential personnel hours available (number of patrol personnel times average shift hours X 365 days) as compared to actual person hours available for assignment (potential less time lost through days off, holidays, vacation, and sick, training absences, roll call training, etc.);
 - b. Allocate and distribute patrol personnel, at least annually; and
 - c. Tabulate incidents by reporting area (routes and beats) using actual figures. A map of the City of Aberdeen will be organized into major reporting areas called beats and sectors.
3. The Patrol Lieutenant will divide the City of Aberdeen into areas, based upon geographic boundaries and neighborhood groups and will ensure that the following is accomplished:
 - a. That enough patrol officers are assigned to each squad to equitably distribute workload and provide a prompt and efficient police response;
 - b. The number of patrol areas on each tour of duty is proportionate to the workload; and
 - c. The boundaries of each patrol sector are based on reporting areas and equalized workload.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 02 Patrol Operations

GO 20-009, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 18-075

L. Police Hazards/Potential Hazards

1. A wide variety of hazardous situations in the City such as bad road and/or weather conditions, unsafe structures, potentially dangerous calls for service, etc., will normally be identified by the patrol officers on the street and called in to communications.
2. When appropriate, the existence of a hazard or potential hazard will be given to the local media.
3. Information as to any of these hazardous or potentially hazardous situations will be reported, disseminated among officers and allied agencies that need to know.
4. Shift Supervisors will ensure corrective action is taken and notification made to the oncoming shift through verbal contact or by information memorandum.
5. Information concerning hazardous/potentially hazardous situations that are received by the on-coming shift supervisor should be passed on to all personnel during roll call in order to prepare and plan for situation.

M. Notifying Next-of-Kin of Deceased, Seriously Injured or Ill Individuals (55.2.6)

1. Subject to the availability of personnel, emergency messages of any legitimate type, as defined by the employee receiving the message, may be delivered.
2. Any message pertaining to a death, serious injury, or serious illness shall be delivered.
3. Notifying next-of-kin in a case where there is a death, serious injury, and/or serious illness, can place the officer in a delicate and uncomfortable situation. The following procedures should be utilized whenever possible and practicable.
 - a. Notification should be made as promptly as possible;
 - b. The presence of a minister, relative or close friend should be obtained whenever possible prior to notification;
 - c. If notification must be made alone, the officer should offer assistance to the next-of-kin in contacting a relative, close friend, and/or minister.
 - d. The person receiving notification should be advised of the means used in transmitting the notification to the Department, i.e., teletype or call from another law enforcement agency, unverified telephone call to the Department, etc.
4. When requested by another agency to make notification of next-of-kin, the PCO and/or officer should obtain all available pertinent information in order to assist the relative to whom the message is to be relayed. (81.2.10)

N. First Responder Notifications in Emergencies (41.2.4)

1. The First Responder to a scene of an emergency will notify the supervisor.
2. The officer may request an ambulance for sick or injured persons or any time a question of life or death is an issue.
3. The officer shall request the medical examiner in all situations when an officer responds to a location where a death has occurred.
 - a. Notification will normally be made by the PCO on request from the shift supervisor or on-scene detective.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 20-009, 02/13/2020
Section	02	Patrol Operations	Supersedes GO 18-075

- b. The name of the victim, location, telephone number and any preliminary facts pertaining to the death will be given to the medical examiner.
 - c. The medical examiner will normally communicate directly by telephone with the police officer or may come to the scene, prior to giving instructions to the officer.
 - d. At any time when a situation exists that creates a hazard or potential hazard, the officer identifying the situation will request the PCO notify to Street/Highway Department or Public Utility Personnel, appropriately.
 4. Some hazardous situations may demand immediate notification to media.
 - a. Supervisors will notify the Public Information Officer.
 5. The officer shall notify the Crime Scene Investigator at all of these incidents:
 - a. Extensive ransacking and theft from private residences where multiple surfaces can be processed for prints.
 - b. Any scene where blood evidence or other fluids need to be collected.
 - c. Burglaries where handguns or large amounts of monies/jewelries have been taken.
 - d. All commercial burglaries and robberies where evidence could be processed.
 - e. Multiple burglaries reported in the same area that occurred during the same day or night.
 6. The officer may notify the Crime Scene Investigator, with supervisor approval, for any other investigation which the officer believes CSI presence is needed.
 7. The Supervisor on duty may notify the Crime Scene Investigator for any investigation which the Supervisor believes CSI presence is needed.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

GO 20-010, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 19-049

A. Policy

1. It is the policy of this Department to operate police vehicles primarily with regard for the safety of others by regulating the engagement and performance of motor vehicle pursuits.
2. The identification/apprehension of a violator is a secondary concern.

B. Definition

1. Fresh Pursuit - immediate pursuit of a suspected criminal by a law enforcement officer, in which situation the officer may arrest the suspect without a warrant.

C. Authorization to Pursue (41.2.2b)

1. A vehicle pursuit is authorized when a suspect uses a vehicle to flee from apprehension for the following:
 - a. Any crime or attempt to commit a crime where the officer would be authorized to use deadly force; or
 - b. There exists probable cause to believe the fleeing suspect committed a felony which resulted, or could have resulted, in death or serious bodily injury, which may include:
 - 1) Murder or attempted murder;
 - 2) First Degree Assault (no attempts);
 - 3) Rape or Felonious sex assault;
 - 4) Carjacking;
 - 5) Armed Robbery; or
 - 6) Kidnapping
2. The officer shall have supervisor authorization prior to initiating any pursuit.
3. The attempt by a fleeing suspect to ram a police vehicle, or any other vehicle, will not be considered as reasonable grounds on which to continue a pursuit

D. Evaluating the Circumstances (41.2.2a)

1. Officers shall consider these and other factors when making the decision to begin or continue a pursuit:
 - a. The nature of the offense;
 - b. The officer's ability to operate at high speeds over extended distances;
 - c. The characteristics of the highway and the officer's familiarity with the highway;
 - d. The performance characteristics of the vehicle and those of the vehicle being pursued;
 - e. Traffic density; and
 - f. The danger to the public.
2. Inappropriate vehicle pursuits, regardless of the crime, shall result in certain and severe disciplinary action in addition to exposing officers to possible criminal prosecution or civil liability.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

GO 20-010, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 19-049

E. Initiating a Pursuit

1. Before the officer initiates a pursuit, the officer shall notify:
 - a. The supervisor for approval to pursue; and
 - b. The Communications Section.
2. The supervisor shall approve or disapprove the initiation of the pursuit. (41.2.2g)
 - a. Upon receiving approval, the officer shall initiate the pursuit. (41.2.2b)
 - b. If the officer does not receive the supervisor's approval, the officer shall not pursue.
3. The PCO shall record Supervisor notification and authorization in the CAD narrative. (41.2.2f)

F. Supervisor Responsibilities (41.2.2g)

1. The supervisor shall direct, coordinate, and continuously monitor all vehicle pursuits.
2. The supervisor shall continuously provide oversight until the pursuit has concluded or until the supervisor orders the officer(s) to terminate the pursuit.
3. The supervisor shall monitor and supervise all extended or high-speed pursuits, keeping in mind the safety of the public, officers and suspects.
4. The supervisor may assign a secondary unit to facilitate communications, follow, observe, and report the pursuit activity to the Communications Section. (41.2.2d)
5. The supervisor may assign additional cars and any other resources available to assist with the pursuit.

G. Pursuit Procedure (41.2.2c)

1. The goal of the pursuing officer is to stop the offender as safely and expeditiously as possible.
 - a. An officer may appropriately duplicate some of the actions of the violator.
 - b. An officer shall not attempt intrinsically reckless and dangerous maneuvers.
2. The pursuing officer shall attempt to apprehend the violator as soon as possible to minimize the hazard of the offender's violation.
3. Siren and emergency lights will be used during pursuits.
4. The officer who is engaged in vehicle pursuit may disregard traffic laws but is responsible to drive with due regard for the safety of others, and is not protected from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others. (*Maryland Vehicle Law Section 21-106*)
5. The pursuing officer shall maintain communication with the Police Communications Operator and shall relay all information which will assist in apprehending the offender.

H. Roadblocks and Forcible Stops (41.2.3)

1. Roadblocks to stop a fleeing violator are prohibited.
2. Any other form of forcible stopping to stop a fleeing violator is prohibited.

I. Involvement of Other Patrol Vehicles (41.2.2e)

1. Officers shall not become involved in the pursuit without the approval of the supervisor.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 20-010, 02/13/2020
Section	04	Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving	Supersedes GO 19-049

2. An officer operating a Patrol vehicle carrying passengers or prisoners shall not become involved in a high-speed pursuit.
3. The Chief of Police may authorize an officer to participate in the pursuit when passengers are:
 - a. Aberdeen Police Department sworn employees;
 - b. Sworn personnel from other police agencies; or
 - c. Other persons specifically authorized by the Chief of Police.

J. Terminating a Pursuit

1. Pursuits shall be discontinued when: (41.2.2h)
 - a. The risk to the officer or the public are unnecessarily high;
 - b. The risk is inconsistent with the severity of the violation; and/or
 - c. The highway and environmental conditions are not conducive to continued safe pursuit.
2. The supervisor shall have the authority to end the pursuit at any time. (41.2.2i)
3. The pursuing officer shall have the authority to abandon the pursuit at any time. (41.2.2i)

K. Pursuit into Another Jurisdiction Outside Aberdeen (41.2.2j)

1. The supervisor shall approve or disapprove a pursuit that crosses a jurisdictional boundary before the officer leaves Aberdeen to continue the pursuit.
2. Officers Entering another Jurisdiction
 - a. When entering another jurisdiction, officers shall always be cognizant of their obligation to protect property and safeguard lives.
 - b. The officer shall carefully evaluate, based on the facts immediately available to him/her:
 - 1) Whether continue pursuit into another jurisdiction in which APD authority is limited to that contained within the provisions of the Fresh Pursuit Act; or
 - 2) Those rights and authority possessed by all citizens at Common Law will result in a reduction of imminent danger to the public; or
 - 3) Whether continued pursuit is not in the public interest.
 - c. When considering the decision to pursue or not, an officer shall take into consideration his or her previous experience, training, and the guidelines contained within this policy.
3. When the police agency responsible for services in the entered jurisdiction joins the pursuit, that agency shall have the responsibility for continued pursuit.
4. Conditions permitting, the supervisor shall send only one Aberdeen Police Department vehicle to continue pursuit.
5. The pursuing officer shall also furnish Communications with a description of the fleeing vehicle, the offense or violation for which such vehicle is being pursued and the location and direction of travel of such pursuit. (41.2.2c)
6. Communications shall immediately transmit such information to the responsible police agency in the jurisdiction to be entered by the fastest means of communication possible. (41.2.2f)



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

GO 20-010, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 19-049

7. Use of Firearms
 - a. Use of firearms during fresh pursuit in a foreign jurisdiction will be in strict conformance to Aberdeen Police Department policy and regulations governing use of firearms within Maryland.
8. Apprehension
 - a. The Aberdeen police officer shall not remove the apprehended subject from that jurisdiction until all the appropriate laws of the foreign jurisdiction have been fully complied with regarding:
 - 1) Judicial hearings on the legality of the arrest; and
 - 2) The legal right to remove such person to the State of Maryland.

L. Fresh Pursuit (41.2.2j)

1. The Aberdeen Police Department may assist police agencies in bordering jurisdictions when requested.
2. Officers shall obtain permission from the on-duty patrol supervisor, who should make such decisions on a case by case basis contingent on the merits of each situation.
3. Officers have no police powers outside the State's boundaries, except in situations defined by law; i.e., fresh pursuits, extradition, etc., and hence are bound by the laws of the jurisdiction that is entered.
4. Whenever officers are requested to act in other jurisdictions, they will be accompanied by duly authorized law enforcement personnel of that jurisdiction if police action is necessary.

M. Pursuit from Another Jurisdiction Entering Aberdeen (41.2.2j)

1. When this Department is notified that a pursuit by an agency from another jurisdiction is entering the Aberdeen service area, the PCO will gather all pertinent details and relay them to the supervisor.
2. The supervisor will evaluate the circumstances of the pursuit and will decide if APD will actively engage in the pursuit.
3. If the Department does not actively engage in the pursuit, officers will be limited to blocking traffic at intersections within the pursuit area to attempt to limit traffic flow in the pursuit area.
4. Officers are prohibited from using a non-police vehicle to physically stop a fleeing vehicle.

N. Emergency Driving

1. Employees of the Aberdeen Police Department shall, in the performance of their duties, operate Department motor vehicles in a manner consistent with safety and in accordance with the provisions of the law.
2. Life and Death Emergencies are: (41.2.1b)
 - a. Instances in which the presence of an officer will actually save a life, and where seconds would make a difference;
 - b. Instances where another officer has placed a call for assistance; and
 - c. Instances where a life-threatening crime is in progress or has just occurred.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

GO 20-010, 02/13/2020

Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

Supersedes GO 19-049

3. Operating Speeds During Life and Death Emergencies
 - a. Posted speed limits may be exceeded, consistent with safety and statutory exemptions granted to an authorized emergency vehicle when the vehicle is making use of audible and visual signals.
 - b. The audible and visual signals will be supplemented by lighted head lamps.
4. The following codes are available to direct response. (41.2.1c)
 - a. Code 1 – directs an expeditious response and authorizes the use of emergency lights and siren.
 - 1) Operation of a vehicle during an emergency response must conform to the requirements of *Transportation Article 21-106* (see Appendix A).
 - 2) A Code 1 response is usually prompted by one of the following requests for assistance:
 - a) Police officer needs help;
 - i. This includes all instances in which the safety of an officer is directly threatened;
 - b) All situations where there are reasonable grounds to believe human life is in peril and where the police have the primary responsibility for acting; or
 - c) Other situations where an emergency response could prevent loss of life or serious injury.
 - b. Code 2 – response directs personnel to respond within the posted speed limit.
 - 1) Emergency equipment may be used in certain instances to facilitate response and to expedite movement through traffic if the officer considers it appropriate.

O. Documenting Vehicle Pursuits (41.2.2k)

1. The supervisor with which the pursuing officer communicates shall:
 - a. Complete an Incident Report and a Form 68 – Vehicle Pursuit Report on all pursuits outside of the Aberdeen City limits;
 - 1) Reference any other incident reports, accidents report, etc., related to the pursuit; and
 - b. Notify the Patrol Commander, Deputy Chief, and Chief of Police of the incident;
 - 1) Immediately notify in cases where injuries and damage to property occur.
2. Pursuing officers shall complete a Form 68 - Vehicle Pursuit Report, in addition to an incident report, after every pursuit.
3. The Vehicle Pursuit Report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police through the chain of command, for administrative review of every pursuit.

P. Pursuit Policy Training

1. PCOs and sworn officers shall undergo documented initial training on this Pursuit Policy. (41.2.2m)
2. All sworn officers shall undergo a documented annual review of this Pursuit Policy. (41.2.2n)



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

GO 20-010, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 19-049

Q. Annual Analysis and Review of Pursuits (41.2.21)

1. The Patrol Commander shall conduct a documented annual analysis of pursuit reports and shall submit the analysis to the Chief of Police.
2. The analysis shall include:
 - a. Analysis of patterns or trends that indicate training needs
 - b. A review of the Department's Pursuit Policy;
 - c. A review of the Department's reporting procedure; and
 - d. A review of policy, procedure, and the pursuit report form.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 04 Vehicle Pursuits and Emergency Driving

GO 20-010, 02/13/2020
Supersedes GO 19-049

APPENDIX A Code of Maryland (Statutes) §21–106

- (a) Subject to the conditions stated in this section:
- (1) The driver of an emergency vehicle registered in any state may exercise the privileges set forth in this section while:
 - (i) Responding to an emergency call;
 - (ii) Pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law; or
 - (iii) Responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm; and
 - (2) The driver of an emergency vehicle registered in the State or a local jurisdiction in the State may exercise the privileges set forth in this section while performing motorcade or escort duty if the motorcade or escort duty involves:
 - (i) Homeland security;
 - (ii) A funeral;
 - (iii) A dignitary; or
 - (iv) Facilitating the safe movement of vehicles or pedestrians that are or will be near the motorcade or escort.
- (b) Under the circumstances stated in subsection (a) of this section, the driver of an emergency vehicle may:
- (1) Park or stand without regard to the other provisions of this title;
 - (2) Pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safety;
 - (3) Exceed any maximum speed limit, but only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property;
 - (4) Disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing direction of movement or turning in a specified direction; and
 - (5) Travel through any local jurisdiction in the State as necessary to perform and return from motorcade or escort duty.
- (c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the privileges set forth in this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22–218 of this article, except that an emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display the visual signals.
- (2) The privileges set forth in subsection (b)(1) of this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22–218 of this article.
- (3) (i) The driver of an emergency vehicle may not use flashing lights or a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle while returning from an emergency call, fire alarm, or motorcade or escort, except that fire apparatus carrying standing firemen may use flashing lights that are visible only to the rear.
- (ii) The driver of an emergency vehicle, while parking or backing the emergency vehicle, may use flashing lights within 100 feet of the entrance ramp to a:
1. Fire station; or
 2. Rescue station.
- (4) Before exercising the privileges set forth in subsection (b)(5) of this section, the jurisdiction that employs the driver of a motorcade or escort shall provide notice of the motorcade or escort to any jurisdiction that the driver will enter while performing or returning from the motorcade or escort duty.
- (d) This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 06 Community Policing Program

GO 19-020, 6/20/2019
Supersedes GO 17-013

A. Policy

1. The Community Policing Program includes Crime Prevention and Community Involvement activities.
2. The objectives of the Community Policing Program are: (45.2.1e)
 - a. To interact with citizens of the community,
 - b. To interact with business owners and employees of the community,
 - c. To identify the concerns of the community and businesses, and
 - d. To implement preventive actions and community activities to address and solve identified community concerns.
3. The Patrol Lieutenant is responsible for the Community Policing Program.

B. Crime Prevention, Community Involvement, and Community Policing Activities

1. Officers will assist interested residents and businesses with organizing crime prevention groups, (45.1.2)
 - a. Will maintain regular contact with these and other interested community groups; and
 - b. Will record their activities on the Community Policing report.

C. Community Policing, Crime Prevention, and Community Involvement Activities

1. Officers are encouraged to establish contact and be liaisons with existing community organizations or establish community groups where they are needed. (45.2.1a)
2. Officers are encouraged to assist with developing, editing, revising, and amending Department policies that involve Police interaction with members of the community. (45.2.1b)
3. The Chief of Police will publicize Department objectives, community concerns, and successes on the Department's website and Facebook. (45.2.1c)
4. Officers will deliver to the Department information received from citizens' organizations by (45.2.1d)
 - a. Discussing the information at Roll Call;
 - b. Presenting the information at monthly Staff Meetings; and/or
 - c. Sending the information through global email to Department employees.
5. Officers are encouraged to identify community concerns and develop community policing strategies, to resolve those community concerns, if any. (45.2.1f)
 - a. Officers will submit their pre-operation plan to the supervisor.
 - b. The supervisor will initial, write comments if any, and forward the pre-operation plan to the Lieutenant.
 - c. The Lieutenant will approve or disapprove the plan.

D. Community Policing Monthly and Quarterly Reporting (45.2.3)

1. Officers shall record and submit their Community Policing Activity Reports to their supervisors every month.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

GO 19-020, 6/20/2019

Section 06 Community Policing Program

Supersedes GO 17-013

2. Each supervisor shall present a Community Policing Monthly Report at the Department's monthly staff meetings. (45.2.1d)
 - a. Each supervisor shall submit their Community Policing Monthly Reports to the Community Policing Program Coordinator.
3. Information in Community Policing reports shall include but will not limited to:
 - a. Activity (Concerns we are trying to address) (45.2.2d)
 - b. Did Activity conducted address a specific previously identified concern? (45.2.2d)
 - c. New issues or concerns identified or received from the community. (45.2.2a)
 - d. Plans to address new issues and concerns (45.2.2c)
 - e. Any other concerns or issues that would not be noted in reports or CAD events, including meetings, details, projects, or comments from citizens during business checks and Bike Patrol. (45.2.2b)
4. The Community Policing Program Coordinator shall compile the monthly reports each quarter and present a quarterly report to the Chief of Police at a monthly staff meeting. (45.2.1d)

E. Citizen Survey (45.2.4)

1. A documented survey of citizen attitudes and opinions is conducted at least once every three years with respect to:
 - a. overall agency performance;
 - b. overall competence of agency employees;
 - c. citizens' perception of officers' attitudes and behavior;
 - d. community concern over safety and security within the agency's
2. The Survey is located on the Aberdeen Police Department website.
 - a. The Sr. Administrative Specialist will maintain the website results.
3. The Survey is also in written form.
 - a. The Accreditation Manager will maintain copies in the Department lobby.
 - b. Officers will distribute the survey at community policing events.
4. Survey results will be compiled in an analysis at least every three years, and will be submitted to the Chief of Police. (45.2.5)



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 07 Civil Citations for Qualifying Marijuana Violations

GO 16-028, 12/28/2016
Supersedes GO 15-002

A. Policy

1. Officers may issue a Civil Citation for a qualifying marijuana offense.

B. Definitions

1. Carroll Doctrine - permits a police officer to search an entire motor vehicle and any containers inside it if there is probable cause to believe the vehicle contains contraband or the fruits, instrumentalities, or evidence of criminal activity.
2. Contraband - illegal or prohibited items.

C. Weight of the Marijuana

1. Officers who encounter marijuana while on patrol will use their training, knowledge, and experience to determine the weight.
2. If the Officer reasonably believes the marijuana to be less than 10 grams (excluding packaging), he/she
 - a. Will seize the marijuana; and
 - b. May issue the person a Civil Citation for the offense.
3. If the Officer reasonably believes the marijuana to be 10 grams or more (excluding packaging), he/she
 - a. Will seize the marijuana; and
 - b. Will arrest the person for the criminal offense.
4. If the Officer weighs the marijuana, and determines the marijuana is **10 grams or more** (excluding packaging) and the person has already been issued a Civil Citation,
 - a. The officer will take no further enforcement action.
5. If the Officer weighs the marijuana, and determines the marijuana was **less than 10 grams** (excluding packaging) and the person is in custody,
 - a. The officer will issue a Civil Citation to the person and will promptly release the person.

D. Criminal vs. Civil Violations

1. While possession of drug paraphernalia is still a criminal offense, Officers will not arrest or charge a person for possession of marijuana paraphernalia, unless the person is charged with another criminal violation.
2. If a person possesses less than 10 grams of marijuana, the officer may charge the person with the criminal offense of possession with intent to distribute CDS if the facts and circumstances present probable cause for the charge.

E. Forms and Reports

1. Uniform Civil Citation (DC-028)
 - a. When charging a person for a civil offense, Officers will use a Civil Citation, either:



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 16-028, 12/28/2016
Section	07	Civil Citations for Qualifying Marijuana Violations	Supersedes GO 15-002

- 1) the pre-printed/pre-numbered Civil Citation from the citation book provided by the District Court; or
 - 2) the Court-approved .pdf version of the Civil Citation.
2. Uniform Juvenile Civil Citation (DC-031)
 - a. If the person is under 18 years old, the officer will process the person as a juvenile and
 - b. Will charge the juvenile on a Civil Citation.
3. Reports
 - a. Officers will complete an Incident Report detailing the circumstances of the incident.
4. Report Distribution
 - a. The officer will give a copy of the Civil Citation to the person upon release.
 - b. The Records Section will send copies of the Civil Citation and Incident Report to the State's Attorney's Office.
 - c. The Records Section shall retain all original copies.

F. Issuing Civil Citations

1. If the Officer chooses to use the Court-approved .pdf version of the Civil Citation, the officer will:
 - a. Use the tracking number from a preprinted/pre-numbered Civil Citation and type that number into the space provided in the .pdf version of the citation; and
 - b. Draw a diagonal line across the pre-printed/pre-numbered Citation and staple the pre-printed/pre-numbered Citation to the Court copy of the .pdf version.
2. The officer shall issue separate Civil Citations for each violation.
3. When the officer issues more than one Citation to a person, the Citations shall be related.
4. If the officer issues a Criminal Citation for a qualifying offense, the Criminal Citation shall be related to the Civil Citation.

G. Determining Subsequent Offenders

1. The officer will determine if the person has previously been issued a Civil Citation for less than 10 grams of marijuana in order to establish
 - a. If the person is eligible to pay a pre-paid fine or
 - b. If the person must appear in Court.
2. To determine if the person is a subsequent offender, the person will be queried through one of the Court's databases, by the officer or by the PCO.
 - a. Records of previous civil offenses for marijuana violations are not maintained on the Judiciary Case Search (the public website.)
3. The Mainframe Database (accessed through CJIS) can be used;
 - a. The query of the Mainframe Database may be made by the PCO or the Officer.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 16-028, 12/28/2016
Section	07	Civil Citations for Qualifying Marijuana Violations	Supersedes GO 15-002

4. If a previous violation be located, the officer will save a copy of the record and include the record in the case file.
5. Offenses which qualify for a pre-paid fine and offenses that require the person to appear in Court:
 - a. 1st Violation - \$100 Prepaid Fine
 - b. 2nd Violation - \$250 Prepaid Fine
 - c. 3rd or Subsequent Violation - \$500 and Must Appear
 - d. Offender at least 18 but under 21 - Must Appear
1. Upon determining whether the person has any previous violations, the Officer will complete the Citation noting whether the person
 - a. Can pre-pay the fine or
 - b. Is required to appear in Court.

H. Searches

1. Positive K-9 alerts will continue to be sufficient probable cause to search vehicles for the presence of CDS.
2. Probable cause searches for marijuana involving vehicles will be done so in accordance with the Carroll Doctrine.
 - a. Such searches can extend to both the vehicle and its occupants.
3. When conducting probable cause searches for marijuana, Officers should always articulate the reasons they believe the vehicle contains contraband or the fruits, instrumentalities or evidence of criminal activity.
4. The search incident to arrest exception to the warrant requirement does not apply to the issuance of a Civil Citation.

I. Release

1. The officer will release the person after he/she signs a Civil Citation, and citations for Must Appear offenses, if any.
2. The officer will not arrest a person for refusing to sign a Civil Citation; the person is not required to sign it.
 - a. The officer will write "Refused to Sign" in the signature line of the Citation.
3. A person is not required to furnish proof of identification when receiving a Civil Citation.
4. If the Officer believes the person is providing a fictitious name, the Officer may charge the person with the criminal charge of Obstructing and Hindering and may process the person as an On-View arrest.

J. Seizing and Testing

1. Officers shall seize and have all marijuana, regardless of its weight, stored as a Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS).



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 16-028, 12/28/2016
Section	07	Civil Citations for Qualifying Marijuana Violations	Supersedes GO 15-002

2. Officers shall use MSP Form 67 - Request for Laboratory Analysis/Chain of Custody to maintain a chain of custody for the CDS.
3. Marijuana only involving a civil offense will not be sent to the laboratory for testing.
4. The CDS Custodian may need to field test or present the marijuana in Court as required by the state's attorney.
5. The CDS Custodian may be directed by a supervisor to send marijuana related to a criminal or serious traffic offense, regardless of the amount, to the laboratory for testing, when the supervisor has determined the evidence is necessary for the successful prosecution of the case.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 08 Vehicle Impound and Release

GO 18-022, 04/18/2018
Supersedes GO 15-009

A. Policy

1. The Aberdeen Police Department will complete detailed impound reports when impounding vehicles in situations where necessary to safeguard the vehicle, preserve evidence, or promote a safe environment.

B. Procedure

1. When an officer impounds a vehicle, the officer shall notify the Communications Section and ask the PCO for an Impound Number.
2. The PCO will
 - a. Log the Impound Number in the Impound Book.
 - b. Run a 10-28 Registration Check and 10-29 Check for Wanted
 - c. Print out the results and give the printouts to the impounding officer
3. The officer shall
 - a. Record the Impound Number on Form 7 – Vehicle Impound and Inventory;
 - b. Complete both pages of the Form,
 - 1) Check all appropriate Conditions for Release, and
 - 2) Attach to the completed form the printouts of the 10-28 and 10-29.
4. The officer shall immediately submit the completed form with attachments to the supervisor.
5. The supervisor shall review and approve the impound documents and return them to the Communications Section before the officer's end of duty.
6. PCO's shall place the impound documents in the Impound Book in the Communications Section.

C. Motor Vehicle Impound Book

1. Individual log forms will be maintained in the Communications Office.
2. Each entry will be assigned an Impound Number.
3. The first two digits will indicate the year of the entry to be followed by the sequential number of that entry, i.e., 03-001, 03-002, etc.
4. The number will be cut off annually; the last entry indicating the number of vehicles stored for that year.
5. The number will be recorded on the Vehicle Report in the space provided.

D. Processing the Vehicle Impound and Inventory Forms

1. The Administrative Sergeant or Corporal shall
 - a. Check regularly and remove the Impound and Inventory documents; and
 - b. Maintain and process the Impound and Inventory documents until the vehicles can be released, appropriately. (61.4.3c)

E. Requirements for Releasing Impounded Vehicles

1. Vehicles may be released to the following persons or under the following circumstances:



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-022, 04/18/2018
Section	08	Vehicle Impound and Release	Supersedes GO 15-009

- a. To the owner with
 - 1) Photo ID *and*
 - 2) Proof of ownership
- b. To an agent of the owner with
 - 1) Photo ID *and*
 - 2) Notarized, original letter from the owner authorizing the agent to claim the vehicle; **or**
 - 3) Employee ID *and*
 - 4) Letter from Company/Agency authorizing agent to claim the vehicle.
2. The vehicle shall not be released
 - a. To the driver, prior to 8 hours after having been arrested for Driving Under the Influence.
 - b. If the vehicle is on hold.

F. Procedures for Releasing Impounded Vehicles

1. The Police Communications Officer will complete a Form 31 - Authorization to Release Stored Motor Vehicle.
2. The PCO will give the original Form 31 to the person authorized to take possession of the vehicle.
3. The PCO will attach the NCR copy to the MVI File and place the file in the Impound Release Binder.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 09 Shoplifting

GO 16-023 11/22/16
Supersedes GO 15-081

A. Policy

1. The Department shall assist and cooperate however possible with store employees and security staff to detect, apprehend, and prosecute persons accused of theft (shoplifting).

B. Arresting Shoplifters

1. The officer may take the shoplifter into custody under the following circumstances:
 - a. When the value of the stolen property exceeds the felony limit in dollars, and probable cause is established, and prosecution is requested.
 - b. The suspect does not possess positive identification to the satisfaction of the responding officer, or has no fixed address.
 - c. When there are extenuating circumstances and the arrest complies with warrantless arrest laws.
 - d. When the shoplifter is a juvenile, regardless of the monetary value.
 - 1) The officer shall process juveniles according to juvenile procedures

C. Identifying Shoplifters

1. If the officer is uncertain about the positive identity of a suspect, the officer shall perform a records check.

D. Releasing Shoplifters

1. The officer may release the suspect if the suspect is an out of state resident and has proper identification, and the offense is not a felony.
2. The officer will advise the store owner/agent of procedures for making application for a Statement of Charges.

E. Reporting

1. The officer shall complete an incident report on all shoplifting incidents.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 10 Vehicle Towing Procedures

Original Policy

A. Introduction

1. Disposing of vehicles abandoned, involved in accidents, or otherwise part of the many situations which may be brought to the attention of an Officer is recognized as a routine function.
2. It is, nevertheless, one which must be approached with a great deal of discretion, for the result of misguided authority may be civil liability, or in the case of an investigation, inadmissible evidence and the resultant embarrassment of an acquittal.
3. The inability to respond before the fact to all of the occasions where operating guidelines may be desirable is readily recognized; consequently, it is the purpose of the Section to offer direction, in a general way, to the Officer so that he may operate on a sound, legal basis when disposing of vehicles that must be towed and stored.
4. It must be understood that these guidelines, where they are not governed by statute, are intended to be flexible and allow for wide discretion by the Officer in those situations where a clear-cut procedure is not prescribed.

B. Inventory of Vehicles (61.4.3c)

1. Except where specifically noted otherwise in this Chapter, whenever any vehicle is towed by a Department-dispatched towing service or taken into custody at the direction of an Officer, a Vehicle Impound Report (APD Form 7) will be initiated.
2. Since the primary purpose of having the vehicle towed to a place of storage is to protect property from loss or damage, the Officer will examine the vehicle prior to its removal by the tow truck and prepare an inventory of all property therein.
 - a. All property included in the inventory will be recorded on the Vehicle Impound Report (APD Form 7), or if additional space is needed, on a Supplemental Report (APD Form 2) which will be attached to the report.
 - b. The same case number will be used for both reports.
3. All property in the vehicle must be inventoried, including items in unlocked baggage, unsealed cartons, etc.
 - a. Items in the trunk and glove compartment should be inventoried as should items in locked suitcases or containers, but only if a key is available.
 - b. Forced entry to a trunk, glove box, suitcase or other item is not permitted to complete an inventory unless express permission has been granted and the Consent to Search and Seize Form (APD Form 11) has been signed by the owner.
 - c. Items such as clothing in a suitcase or tools in a tool kit need not be individually itemized, but can, for example, be described on the inventory and the Property Form (APD Form 6) simply as "women's clothing" or "auto mechanic tools."
4. Certain limitations are imposed on the scope of an inventory and each inventory must be justified by its own circumstances.
 - a. An inventory may extend to any part of the vehicle where personal property would ordinarily be kept; looking elsewhere will call into question the Officer's motives.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

Original Policy

Section 10 Vehicle Towing Procedures

- b. Unlocked packages may be opened for the mutual protection of the Officer and the owner.
 - c. Evidence or contraband discovered in the conduct of a bona fide inventory may be seized and used to prosecute.
 - d. The burden is on the Officer, however, to show that the inventory was reasonable and pursuant to Department policy.
5. Except for evidence, only items with a marketable value or those with an obvious attraction which may result in its disappearance, should be removed and placed on a Property Form (APD Form 6).
- a. Personnel shall consider each item in the vehicle in connection with the circumstances necessitating the inventory, as well as their obligation to safeguard property when deciding what will be stored.
 - b. An obviously broken CB set has little appeal and/or resale value as compared to a leather brief case which is empty; or a soldering gun, as compared to a hammer.
 - c. When deciding to store property, personnel are encouraged to use good judgment in light of the circumstances involved, Department policy and legal requirements as addressed elsewhere in the patrol manual.
 - d. Vehicle equipment listed on the Vehicle Impound Report, e.g. spare tire, will not be listed on the inventory nor removed from the vehicle.
 - e. Items not removed will be locked in the vehicle, preferably in the trunk.
 - f. Those items listed on a Property Form will also be listed on the inventory.
 - g. Permitting personal containers to be secured at an Department when the contents are not known may be subjecting personnel and City to an unreasonable and significant liability;
 - 1) therefore, luggage or other containers that are locked will not be removed or described on a Property Form but only on the inventory.
 - h. Even if the apparent value of the locked luggage or container seems significant, they will not be removed, but will remain locked in the vehicle, preferably in the trunk.

C. Traffic Accidents

1. In those instances when the vehicle has been involved in an accident but is operable, and the owner/operator is able to move it, he should move it from the traveled portion of the roadway and park it in a safe location.
2. Where a vehicle is rendered inoperative as the result of an accident, but there is no necessity for having the vehicle removed immediately, the owner/operator or some other responsible person designated by the owner/operator must be given the option of making disposition of the vehicle.
 - a. However, the owner/operator should be advised that the vehicle will be classified as an "abandoned vehicle" if allowed to remain on public property more than forty-eight hours and may be towed on the authority of the Aberdeen Police. (61.4.3a) (61.4.3b)



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol
Section	10	Vehicle Towing Procedures

Original Policy

- b. If the owner desires to have the vehicle towed, his choice of the business to do the towing will be respected subject to local and state statutes, ordinances, and regulations or unless the requested tow vehicle cannot respond within a reasonable period of time and prompt removal of the damaged vehicle is necessary.
 - c. When the vehicle must be removed and such removal cannot be effected within a reasonable period of time by the requested tow service, the investigating Officer will so inform the owner/operator or other responsible person and either give him the opportunity to call a closer towing service or arrange through Communications (with or without the owner's/operator's consent) for the Departmental authorized towing service to respond to the scene.
 3. When the vehicle is inoperable and/or the person responsible for it cannot make immediate disposition, and it is impeding the free flow of traffic or creating a traffic hazard, the vehicle must be removed. In these instances the Officer will arrange through the Communications for an Department approved tow vehicle. (61.4.3b)
 - a. The investigating Officer shall request a tow vehicle through the Communications.
 - 1) The request will include the reason why it is being made, the location of the vehicle, the make and registration of the vehicle, and the need for special equipment, i.e., a dolly for a vehicle without wheels, a heavy tow vehicle for a tractor-trailer, etc.
 - b. Only that towing vehicle dispatched by Communications will be permitted to tow the disabled vehicle unless the owner/operator pays the costs incurred by the dispatched tow vehicle.
 - 1) An officer will not request services of a particular tow vehicle; all requests will be made through Communications who will dispatch the appropriate tow service.

D. Obstruction - Unsafe Vehicles

1. A vehicle that is illegally parked where it unreasonably obstructs or impedes the free flow of traffic or the movement of pedestrians or where a vehicle is being operated on the highway in an obviously unsafe condition or is for any other reason being operated contrary to law, such a vehicle shall be removed in the manner hereafter prescribed:
 - a. Where appropriate, the owner/operator shall be issued a citation for the appropriate violation
 - b. If the vehicle is parked and obstructing the free flow of traffic or pedestrians, the owner/operator shall be required to move the vehicle.
 - c. If the owner/operator is unwilling or unable to move the vehicle, then the Officer shall arrange for the vehicle to be removed by a Communications dispatched tow vehicle and placed in the custody of the tower. (61.4.3b)
2. If the vehicle, because of its condition, may not be legally moved on the highway, it must remain where it was stopped unless the location where it is to be left restricts parking in some manner.
3. If the vehicle must be moved, then the owner/operator shall be allowed to make suitable disposition, but in lieu of arrangements for removal by the owner/operator, the Officer may have the vehicle removed in the manner previously described.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 10 Vehicle Towing Procedures

Original Policy

E. Owner/Operator Removed From Custody/Incapacitated

1. Where the owner/operator in possession of a vehicle is arrested for a traffic violation or for some other offense or is physically unable to continue operating his vehicle, and the vehicle is not required as evidence or need not be impounded for any other reason, the investigating Officer will adhere to the following procedures:
 - a. Advise the owner/operator that he may, if he so desires, release the vehicle to a licensed driver who is willing to assume full responsibility for the vehicle and all property contained therein.
 - b. Advise the owner/operator that he may, if he desires, secure the vehicle and allow it to remain at the scene, providing it will be parked in an unrestricted parking area, and the owner/operator agrees to assume full responsibility for the vehicle and all property left therein.
 - 1) The owner/operator should also be advised that if the vehicle is left unattended for forty-eight hours and/or becomes a traffic hazard, it may be disposed of according to established procedure
 - c. If the owner/operator chooses not to release the vehicle to a third party, or is not competent or is otherwise unable to make disposition of his vehicle, or will not agree to secure and assume full responsibility for the vehicle and property left therein, the vehicle shall be removed by a Communications dispatched tow vehicle and personal property shall be secured and inventoried in the manner prescribed by Department policy.

F. Recovered Stolen/Wanted Vehicles

1. If a stolen vehicle, a vehicle used without the authority of the owner, or a vehicle used in connection with a criminal offense is recovered, the investigating Officer will:
 - a. If necessary and feasible, arrange for the vehicle to be processed at the scene for evidence
 - b. If there is no reason for holding the vehicle, release may be made directly to an authorized person. Prior to the release, the Officer will complete a Vehicle Impound Report (APD Form 7) and an Authorization to Release Stored Motor Vehicle (APD Form 31)
 - c. If the owner of the vehicle is not available, and there is no reason for holding the vehicle, request the nearest approved tow service for removal and storage
 - d. If the vehicle must be retained as evidence or for further processing, it should be removed to a secured location and kept there in a until such time as it is no longer needed as evidence and has been properly claimed. In every case, prior approval for such removal will be obtained from the Department on-duty supervisor.
 - 1) Whenever possible, a vehicle to be retained as evidence or for further processing should be driven from its place of recovery to the secured area by the investigating Officer to provide for the proper safeguarding and chain of custody of evidence.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

Original Policy

Section 10 Vehicle Towing Procedures

- 2) When it is not possible to drive the vehicle from its place of recovery to the secured area, the investigating Officer shall arrange for such removal by a Communications dispatched tow service.
- 3) The Officer should secure the vehicle prior to towing and follow the vehicle as it is being towed to its destination to provide for the proper safeguarding and chain of custody of evidence.
- 4) When a vehicle is being towed to the secured area to be retained as evidence or for further processing, the investigating Officer will remain in constructive custody of the vehicle.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 11 Unattended and Abandoned Vehicles

Original policy

A. Policy

1. The police has authority to take custody and to remove and dispose of abandoned vehicles found on public property and on private property.
2. The following policy will be adhered to by members of the department when investigating an abandoned or unattended vehicle.

B. Disposition of Unattended/Abandoned Vehicles (61.4.3a)

1. Prior to removing an abandoned vehicle as provided in this Chapter, every reasonable attempt will be made to have the vehicle removed by the owner or the person responsible for leaving the vehicle unattended/abandoned.
2. Abandoned vehicles may be removed at the direction of the Aberdeen Police Department and placed in storage in any facility used for the purpose of vehicular storage pursuant to Section 25-203 of the Maryland Vehicle Law. Such vehicles shall be construed to be in the possessive custody of that facility.
3. Abandoned vehicles and mobile homes found on private property shall not be removed or taken into custody at the direction of or by the Aberdeen Police Department, except when such vehicle is evidence in a criminal case.
4. The Maryland Vehicle Laws, Section 25-202 prohibits anyone from abandoning a vehicle on public property or abandoning a vehicle on private property without the consent of the property owner or lessee.
5. Appropriate enforcement action will be taken whenever a violation is determined and the person responsible is known.
6. Abandoned vehicles are not to be sold at public auction.
7. In those cases where an abandoned vehicle has been impounded at a local designated tow facility and the owner fails to claim the vehicle, a CS-78 will be completed by the Property Officer in conjunction with the tow service provider.
8. Nothing in this order is intended to prevent any person, firm, or corporation who possesses an abandoned vehicle from disposing of that vehicle under laws applicable to the situation, provided the methods of disposal do not interfere with the responsibilities charged to the police under the Maryland Vehicle Law, Title 25, Subtitle 2.

C. Unattended/Abandoned Vehicle on Public Property (61.4.3b)

1. Where vehicles are found unattended/ abandoned on public property, the following procedures will be adhered to:
 - a. Determine if the vehicle is stolen, wanted, or has been previously reported as unattended.
 - b. If the vehicle is found to be stolen or wanted, it should be processed as per established procedures.
 - c. An Incident Report Number is the only report required when the vehicle is not stolen or wanted and not previously reported.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

Original policy

Section 11 Unattended and Abandoned Vehicles

- d. The officer reporting the incident will make a reasonable effort to contact the owner and advise him to remove the vehicle within 48 hours or it will be removed and stored as an abandoned vehicle.
 - 1) Reasonable effort will be to telephone contact or personal contact, when feasible, in the department's area, and telephone contact elsewhere within Maryland and adjoining states, when practical.
- e. If a vehicle has been recorded as unattended for 48 hours, removal and storage may be directed by the patrol supervisor.
 - 1) The patrol supervisor will verify that reasonable effort has been made to contact the owner prior to storage.
- f. If a vehicle has been left unattended on any portion of a primary or secondary highway, and is in violation of any of the provisions of Motor Vehicle Law § 22-408 of the Transportation Article, the patrol supervisor may authorize its removal and storage as an abandoned vehicle.
 - 1) The patrol supervisor will insure that reasonable effort has been made to contact the owner prior to storage.
- g. The actual removal of a vehicle abandoned on public property will be covered as a separate incident under a separate Incident Report Number.
 - 1) The officer will complete and submit a Vehicle Impound Report, indicating that the vehicle is abandoned on public property and has been stored.
 - 2) The vehicle's VIN number will be physically verified.

D. Abandoned Vehicle on Private Property (61.4.3a)

- 1. In response to complaints of vehicles and mobile homes abandoned on private property, the following procedures will be adhered to:
 - a. The Department will initiate an Incident Report covering the abandoned vehicle incident.
 - b. Upon contact with the complainant, the assigned officer will determine if the vehicle in question is stolen or wanted.
 - 1) If so, it will be processed as per established procedures.
 - c. The officer will assist the complainant in the completion of MVA Form #CS-77, Application to Dispose of an Abandoned Vehicle.
 - 1) In every case, this form must be signed by the complainant and the vehicle's VIN number verified by the officer.
 - d. In addition to the above form, the officer will complete a Vehicle Impound Report, noting the facts pertaining to the abandonment of the vehicle and the notification procedures that have been taken.
 - e. Upon completion of the initial incident investigation, the Vehicle Impound Report will be submitted with the completed MVA Form #CS-77 attached.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 11 Unattended and Abandoned Vehicles

Original policy

E. Abandoned Vehicles in Garages

1. In response to complaints of vehicles abandoned in a garage used for parking, towing, storing, servicing, repair or maintenance of vehicles, certain procedures will be adhered to.
 - a. The responding officer will initiate an Incident Report Number covering the abandoned vehicle incident, except that in the case of a vehicle stored at the facility by direction of the Aberdeen Police Department, the incident will be handled as a follow-up to the original impound incident.
 - b. Upon contact with the complainant, the assigned officer will determine if the vehicle in question is currently listed as stolen or wanted and, if so, it will be processed as per established procedures.
 - c. If the vehicle is not stolen or wanted, ascertain if:
 - 1) the vehicle has been at the garage in excess of ten days following a notice by registered mail, return receipt requested by the addressee, to the owner to pick up the vehicle.
 - 2) the vehicle has been at the garage in excess of ten days after the period when, pursuant to contract, the vehicle was to remain on the premises.
 - 3) the vehicle has been at the garage in excess of ten days after it was left by someone other than the registered owner or by a person authorized to have possession of the vehicle under a contract or use, service, storage, or repair.
 - d. If any of the above conditions have been met and after the officer obtains copies of any documents verifying that they have been met, the complainant will be assisted in completing MVA Form #CS-77, Application to Dispose of an Abandoned Vehicle. In every case, the form must be signed by the complainant and the vehicle's VIN number verified by the officer.
 - e. In addition to the above form, the officer will complete a Vehicle Impound Report, noting the facts pertaining to the abandonment of the vehicle and the notification procedures that have been taken.
 - 1) In the case of a vehicle that was placed in the garage by direction of the Aberdeen Police Department, a Supplemental Report, will be used as a follow-up to the original Vehicle Impound Report that was submitted.
 - f. Upon completion of the initial incident investigation, the appropriate report will be submitted with the completed MVA Form #CS-77 and other verifying documents attached.

F. Administrative Procedures

1. The Chief of Police shall establish an abandoned vehicle program designed to implement the provisions of the Abandoned Vehicle Laws.
2. The Administrative Captain shall be appointed to take charge of this program.
3. In addition to the procedures specified hereunder, the Property Officer will be responsible for the maintenance of the Vehicle Impound Files.
4. The notification procedures required by law will not be necessary when the abandoned vehicle is over eight years old and has no engine or is otherwise totally inoperable, and these



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 11 Unattended and Abandoned Vehicles

Original policy

facts have been verified by an on-site physical inspection of the vehicle by the abandoned vehicle supervisor.

- a. When completed Vehicle Impound or Supplement Reports dealing with an abandoned vehicle are received, one copy with attachments, when required, will be turned over to the radio dispatcher.
 - b. Upon receipt of reports, the dispatcher will initiate a METERS inquiry to the State Motor Vehicle Administration to determine the owners and lien holders associated with the abandoned vehicle. The METERS printout received will be retained with other documentation pertaining to the abandoned vehicle.
5. If the abandoned vehicle investigation indicates that the vehicle may be titled or registered in another jurisdiction, that jurisdiction should be contacted and reasonable attempts should be made to establish ownership.
- a. If the owner and/or lien holder can be established, the abandoned vehicle supervisor will as soon as reasonably possible and in any event within seven days, prepare and mail a Notice of Intention to Dispose of an Abandoned Vehicle (MVA Form #CS-88).
 - b. This notice shall be sent to the last registered owner and lien holder by certified letter, return receipt requested signed by the addressee. In all cases, one copy of the Form #CS-88 will be retained for the Vehicle Files.
 - c. In the case of an abandoned vehicle removed at the direction of the Aberdeen Police Department, one copy of Form #CS-88 will be forwarded to the licensed auto wrecker having custody of the vehicle.
6. If the registered owner and lien holder is unknown and cannot be reasonably determined, the abandoned vehicle supervisor will prepare a notice for posting in the Harford County Court House.
- a. The notice shall appear within fifteen days from the date of removal of the abandoned vehicle from public property or from the date application for disposal was made, except that in the case where the registered or certified mail is returned as undeliverable, the notice shall be published within seven days of such return.
 - b. One copy of the notice will be retained for the Vehicle Impound File.

G. Suggested guide - Court Notice

1. NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE OF ABANDONED AND STORED VEHICLE(S)

The motor vehicle(s) described in this example has been found abandoned at Joe's Auto Body, 1 W. Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, MD. The owner(s) and lien holder(s) are hereby informed of their right to reclaim the vehicle(s) upon payment of all charges and costs resulting from the towing, preservation and storage of the vehicle(s).

The failure of the owner(s) or lien holder(s) to reclaim the vehicle(s) within three weeks of the date of this notice shall be deemed a waiver by the owner(s) or lien holder(s) of all rights, title and interest and thereby consent to the sale of the vehicle(s) at public auction or to have it otherwise disposed of in a manner provided by law. For information, contact the Aberdeen Police Department at (410) 272-2121.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 11 Unattended and Abandoned Vehicles

Original policy

Example:

Make & Model	Year:	Serial #:	MVI #
Ford 2 DS	1949	48B-67582	03-001

If the abandoned vehicle is not reclaimed within three weeks from the date notification was mailed or within three weeks of the date publication appeared in a newspaper, the following disposition will be made:

2. If the abandoned vehicle was removed from public property at the direction of the Aberdeen Police Department, the abandoned vehicle supervisor will prepare a Vehicle Release Authorization, and forward same to the licensed wrecker or scrap processor having custody of the vehicle.
 - a. This form will contain a comment to the effect that notification procedures required by law have been complied with and the licensed wrecker or scrap processor is free to dispose of the vehicle through procedures provided in the law.
 - b. A copy of the release form will be retained by the abandoned vehicle supervisor and it will serve to close the active file on that particular vehicle.
3. If the vehicle was abandoned on private property or in a garage, the complainant will be granted authority to dispose of the vehicle to a licensed auto wrecker or scrap processor by issuing MVA Form #CS-78, Certificate of Authority to Dispose of an Abandoned Vehicle.
 - a. A copy of this Form will be retained by the Property Officer. In the case of vehicles abandoned on private property and vehicles placed in a garage by someone other than the Aberdeen Police Department, the retained copy of Form #CS-78 will serve to close the active file on the vehicle in question.
 - b. If the vehicle was originally placed in a garage by direction of the Aberdeen Police Department, a Vehicle Release Authorization Form will be completed and will be forwarded to the garage along with MVA Form #CS-78.
 - c. In this case, copies of the Release Certificate and MVA Form #CS-78 will serve to close the active file on the abandoned vehicle.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 12 Unattended Deaths

GO 17-006, 02/03/2017
Supersedes GO 16-020

A. Policy

1. It is the policy of this Department to investigate all unattended deaths.

B. Definitions

1. Attending Physician - physician responsible for the care given to the victim; and/or the victim's private physician, if that physician cares for the victim on an individual and/or outpatient basis.
2. Unattended death - Any death other than in a nursing home, medical care facility, or where a physician is not present

C. Procedure - Death by Natural Causes

1. Upon arrival at scene, the first responding officer shall
 - a. Determine that the victim has died
 - b. Check the area in vicinity of body for anything suspicious
 - c. Observe body for unusual or unnatural marks or bruises
2. Notifications
 - a. The deceased's immediate family, or next-of-kin,
 - b. The deceased's attending physician, and
 - c. EMTs/Paramedics.
 - d. The Medical Examiner (ME) at all unattended deaths.
 - 1) Advise the ME
 - a) The scene conditions and
 - b) If a doctor will or will not sign off on the death.
 - 2) Ascertain
 - a) The name of the ME, and
 - b) Whether the ME will respond.
3. Collect information about the deceased.
 - a. Name of victim
 - b. Age, DOB
 - c. Known medical problem, medical history.
 - d. When victim last seen or talked to and by whom.
 - e. Prescription medications.
 - f. Attending physician.
4. Confiscate the deceased's prescription medications.

D. Pronouncing the Death



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol

GO 17-006, 02/03/2017

Section 12 Unattended Deaths

Supersedes GO 16-020

1. The officer shall ensure that the victim is pronounced deceased by a certified EMT/Paramedic or physician in all cases where death would not be obvious to the average person.
2. The officer may pronounce the victim deceased *only* if the death would be obvious to the average person. (i.e. body in a state of decay, decapitation, evisceration, extreme trauma)
3. Officers shall note on the final report:
 - a. The name and job title of the person pronouncing the death, and
 - b. The official time of death.

E. Releasing the Deceased

1. The officer may release the deceased to the family or other agency when the officer on the scene has determines that
 - a. Death has occurred,
 - b. The scene does not indicate the possibility of homicide or suspicious circumstances, and
 - c. The officer feels that his/her presence is no longer needed.
2. The officer may assist the family with making arrangements for removal of the deceased, as dictated by the circumstances.

F. Documentation

1. Officers shall complete an incident report and a Form 16 Death Investigation Report for all death investigations.
2. Officers shall document on the Incident Report:
 - a. The Medical Examiner was contacted,
 - b. The name of the Medical Examiner, and
 - c. If the Medical Examiner responded or declined to respond.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 13 Seizure of Non-Prescription Opioids

GO 16-021, 11/04/2016
New policy

A. Policy

1. Department personnel shall not be authorized to field test any powdery substance suspected to be heroin, fentanyl, synthetic opioid or any combination thereof, herein after referred to as non-prescription opioids.

B. Procedures

1. Officers, as soon as possible upon seizing any suspected non-prescription opioid, shall heat seal the suspected CDS per policy and submit it for laboratory analysis.
2. Officers shall use appropriate personal protective measures such as double gloves, mask, and eye protection while seizing, handling or preparing to submit any suspected non-prescription opioid for laboratory analysis.
3. Officers shall be accompanied by one additional Naloxone/Narcan-trained Officer who has at least one (1) Naloxone/Narcan kit.
4. If Officers have any questions about the type of CDS they have seized (cocaine vs fentanyl, synthetic LSD vs fentanyl, bath salts vs fentanyl, etc.), they shall exercise caution and follow these procedures.

C. Documentation

1. If it is necessary to immediately charge the suspect(s) with the suspected CDS prior to receiving official lab results, officers will provide the following details in their statements of charges:
 - a. Their training, knowledge and experience as it relates to CDS, as well as any opioid specific training they've received.
 - b. Detailed description of the packaging and the suspected non-prescription opioid.
 - c. Any witness or suspect statements including their descriptions of the type of suspected CDS.
 - d. The fact that they know that fentanyl and or synthetic opioids are often cut with heroin or sold as heroin.

D. Exposure Effects Procedures

1. If any Officers feel that they were exposed to a non-prescription opioid and feel any side-effects, they shall immediately request medical assistance.
2. The Officers' supervisor will submit a First Report of Injury.
3. The supervisor will notify the Patrol commander of possible exposure upon receiving the completed First Report of Injury.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 14 Home Detention Enforcement

GO 18-039
New Policy

A. Policy

1. The Aberdeen Police Department will provide secondary back-up assistance to all Home Detention Enforcement Unit (HDEU) Correctional officers having contact with offenders in the program, and who are within our jurisdiction.
 - a. The events may include home visits, retakes, rejections and any other event for which an HDEU officer requests assistance.

B. Notification and Assistance

1. When a Home Detention Enforcement Unit (HDEU) Correctional Officer is *en route* to a City of Aberdeen location, the HDEU officer will call the Aberdeen Police Department, if the HDEU officer needs assistance with the event.
2. The PCO will record the:
 - a. HDEU officer's name;
 - b. Name and Address of the offender;
 - c. Expected time of the officer's arrival; and
 - d. Any other pertinent information related to the visit.
3. The PCO will notify the Supervisor who will designate an officer to assist.
4. The PCO will instruct the HDEU officer to wait for the designated APD officer.
5. If there are no APD officers available to assist, the HDEU officer will determine whether to conduct the visit alone.

C. Arrest of Offender

1. If there is a need to arrest an offender for program violations, the HDEU officer will take the appropriate action.
2. If there is a need to arrest an offender for committing a criminal offense (a criminal offense is observed by the APD officer during the visit), the APD officer will take the appropriate action.

D. Additional Information

1. HDEU Correctional Officers
 - a. Home Detention Enforcement Correctional Officers are not police officers.
 - b. They are academy trained and certified through the Maryland Police and Training Standards Commission (formerly MPCTC) but do not have typical police powers.
 - c. Their power of arrest is limited to offenders of home detention.
 - d. They are uniformed and carry firearms.
 - e. They operate covert type vehicles.
2. Visits
 - a. Compliance visits are random and unannounced to the offender.
 - b. At least twice a month, a Home Detention Enforcement Correctional Officer will visit the homes of offenders to ensure compliance with the program rules.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-039
Section	14	Home Detention Enforcement	New Policy

- 1) The HDEU officer checks the clients' monitoring equipment and inspects the house for rules compliance.
 - 2) The process usually takes about 15 minutes.
3. Offenders
 - a. APD will be provided with names and address of those home detention offenders residing in the City of Aberdeen.
 - 1) The names and addresses will be distributed to all personnel.
 - 2) A copy will be maintained in Communications.
4. HDEU Contact
 - a. The 24-hour contact number for the Home Detention Enforcement Unit is (410)769-6428.
 - b. APD Officers may call this number any time officers have questions or need guidance with offenders on home detention.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter 21 Patrol
Section 15 Persons with Mental Health Issues

GO 18-079, 10/22/18
Supersedes Original Policy

A. Policy

1. Department employees shall provide to persons who have mental illnesses the same rights, dignity, and access to police and other government/community services as are provided to all citizens.
2. This policy provides general guidelines for recognizing and interacting with persons with mental health issues.

B. Definition

1. Mental Illness - Any of various conditions characterized by impairment of an individual's normal cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning; and caused by social, psychological, biochemical, genetic, or other factors, such as infection or head trauma.

C. Procedures

1. Department employees will use caution to ensure that the person's rights are not violated and that the person understands what is occurring.
2. Department employees will see that people with a mental illness receive the necessary assistance to access services.
3. Officers shall familiarize themselves with the proper methods of transport, arrest, and detention to ensure officer safety while providing reasonable support to an arrestee with a mental illness.

D. General Guidelines for Recognizing Symptoms (41.2.7a)

1. Officers shall be alert to symptoms common to mental illnesses.
2. The following behaviors may be useful in recognizing warning signs of mental illness:
 - a. Social Withdrawal
 - 1) Sitting and doing nothing.
 - 2) Withdrawal from family, friends; abnormal self-centeredness.
 - 3) Dropping out of activities such as occupations and hobbies.
 - 4) Decline in academic or athletic performance.
 - b. Depression
 - 1) Loss of interest in once pleasurable activities.
 - 2) Expression of hopelessness, helplessness, inadequacy.
 - 3) Changes in appetite, weight loss or weight gain.
 - 4) Behaviors unrelated to events or circumstances.
 - 5) Excessive fatigue and sleepiness, or an inability to sleep.
 - 6) Pessimism; perceiving the world as "dead".
 - 7) Thinking or talking about suicide.
 - c. Thought Disorders
 - 1) Inability to concentrate or cope with minor problems.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-079, 10/22/18
Section	15	Persons with Mental Health Issues	Supersedes Original Policy

- 2) Irrational statements.
- 3) Poor reasoning, memory, and judgment.
 - a) Expressing a combination of unrelated or abstract topics.
 - b) Expressing thought of greatness, e.g., person believes he/she is God.
 - c) Expressing ideas of being harassed or threatened, e.g., CIA monitoring thoughts through TV set.
- 4) Peculiar use of words or language structure.
 - a) Nonsensical speech or chatter.
 - b) Word repetition-frequently stating the same or rhyming words or phrases. Extremely slow speech.
 - c) Pressured speech – expressing urgency in manner of speaking.
- 5) Excessive fears of suspiciousness.
 - a) Preoccupation with death, germ, guilt, delusions, and hallucinations.
- d. Expression of Feelings
 - 1) Hostility from one formerly passive and compliant.
 - a) Argumentative, belligerent, or unreasonably hostile.
 - b) Threatening harm to self or others.
 - c) Overreacting to situations in an overly angry or frightening way.
 - 2) Indifference, even in highly important situations.
 - a) Lack of emotional response.
 - 3) Inability to cry, or excessive crying.
 - 4) Inability to express joy.
 - 5) Inappropriate laughter.
 - a) Reacting with opposite of expected emotion – e.g. laughing at auto accidents.
 - 6) Nonverbal expressions of sadness or grief.
- e. Behavior
 - 1) Hyperactivity or inactivity or alterations between the two.
 - a) Talking excitedly or loudly.
 - b) Manic behavior, accelerated thinking and speaking.
 - 2) Deterioration in personal hygiene and appearance.
 - a) Bizarre clothing or makeup, inappropriate to environment – e.g., shorts in the winter, heavy coats in the summer.
 - 3) Involvement in automobile accidents.
 - 4) Drug or alcohol abuse.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-079, 10/22/18
Section	15	Persons with Mental Health Issues	Supersedes Original Policy

- 5) Forgetfulness and loss of valuable possessions.
 - 6) Attempts to escape through geographic change, frequent moves, or hitchhiking trips.
 - 7) Bizarre behavior – staring, strange postures or mannerisms, lethargic, sluggish movements, repetitious or ritualistic movements.
 - 8) Decorations – Inappropriate use of household items, e.g., aluminum foil covering windows.
 - 9) “Pack ratting” waste matter/trash – accumulation of trash, e.g., hoarding string, newspapers, paper bags, clutter, etc.
 - 10) Unusual sensitivity to noises, light, colors, clothing.
 - 11) Changes in sleeping and eating habits.
- f. Cognitive Impairments
- 1) Disorientation in time, place, or person. Confusion, incoherence and extreme paranoia.
 - 2) Inability to find way in familiar settings.
 - 3) Inability to solve familiar problems.
 - 4) Impaired memory for recent events.
 - 5) Inability to wash and feed oneself, urinary or fecal incontinence. Presence of feces or urine on the floor or walls.
 - 6) The degree to which these symptoms exist varies from person to person according to the type and severity of the mental illness.
 - a) Many of these symptoms represent internal, emotional states that are not readily observable from a distance, but are noticeable in conversation with the individual.
 - b) Often, symptoms of mental illness are cyclic, vary in severity from time to time.
 - c) Duration of an episode can also vary from weeks to months for some, and many years or a lifetime for others.

E. Common Encounters (41.2.7c)

1. Officers should be prepared to encounter a person with a mental illness at any time.
2. Common situations in which such individuals may be encountered include but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Wandering—Individuals with mental challenges may be found wandering aimlessly or engaged in repetitive or bizarre behaviors in a public place;
 - b. Seizures—Mentally ill persons are more subject to seizures and may be found in medical emergency situations;
 - c. Disturbances—Disturbances may develop when caregivers are unable to maintain control over mentally ill persons engaging in self-destructive behaviors;



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-079, 10/22/18
Section	15	Persons with Mental Health Issues	Supersedes Original Policy

- d. Strange and bizarre behaviors—Repetitive and seemingly nonsensical motions and actions in public places, inappropriate laughing or crying, and personal endangerment; or
- e. Offensive or suspicious persons—Socially inappropriate or unacceptable acts such as ignorance of personal space, annoyance of others, inappropriate touching of oneself or others, are sometimes associated with the mentally ill person who are not conscious of acceptable conduct.

F. Response to People With Mental Illness (41.2.7c)

1. While protecting the officer's own safety, the safety of the person with mental illness and others at the scene, the officer should:
 - a. Speak calmly;
 - b. Use non-threatening body language;
 - c. Eliminate to the degree possible, loud sounds, bright lights, sirens, and crowds, moving the individual to a calm environment;
 - d. Keep animals away;
 - e. Look for personal identification;
 - f. Call the caregiver;
 - g. Memory impaired persons reported missing should be handled utilizing guidelines in the Missing Persons Chapter of this Manual;
 - h. Prepare for a lengthy interaction;
 - i. Repeat short, direct phrases;
 - j. Be attentive to sensory impairments that make it difficult to process information;
 - k. Do not touch the person unless absolutely necessary, use soft gestures, avoid quick movements, use simple and direct language, and don't automatically interpret odd behavior as belligerent;
 - l. Accompany the person through a building or neighborhood to seek visual clues;
 - 1) Be aware of different forms of communication such as signals or gestures instead of words;
 - m. Do not become angry at the person; and
 - n. Maintain a safe distance.
2. Officers should seek non-arrest resolutions for minor incidents.
3. Officers should consider when selecting appropriate disposition options that may include the following:
 - a. Refer or transport the person for medical attention if he or she is injured or abused;
 - b. Outright release;
 - 1) Release to care of family, caregiver or mental health provider;
 - c. Refer or transport to substance abuse services;



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-079, 10/22/18
Section	15	Persons with Mental Health Issues	Supersedes Original Policy

- d. Assist in arranging voluntary admission to a mental health facility if requested;
- e. Transport for involuntary emergency psychiatric evaluation if the person's behavior meets the criteria for this action; and
- f. Arrest if a crime has been committed.

G. Interview and Interrogation (41.2.7c)

- a. In a situation where an officer would normally give Miranda Rights, the officer should determine if the person understands the Miranda Rights.
 - 1) The officer should interview or interrogate the person if the officer believes the person:
 - a) Understands the nature of an oath;
 - b) Appreciates the difference between truth and falsehood;
 - c) Appreciates the necessity of telling the truth; and that
 - d) The person who testifies falsely may be punished; or
 - b. If the officer believes the person does not understand the Miranda Rights, the officer should select an appropriate action in this policy.
- 2. If the mentally ill person is a witness, officers should:
 - a. Not interpret lack of eye contact or strange actions as indications of deceit;
 - b. Use simple and straightforward language;
 - c. Do not employ common interrogation techniques, suggest answers, attempt to complete thoughts of persons slow to respond, or pose hypothetical conclusions; and
 - d. Recognize that the individual might be easily manipulated and highly suggestible.

H. Custody (41.2.7c)

- 1. Officers will use the least restraint possible and protect the arrestee from self-injury, while taking all necessary precautions.
- 2. Voluntary admission or referral.
 - a. Officers should refer the person to:
 - 1) An appropriate mental health facility; or
 - 2) The person's primary care or other personal physician if possible.
 - b. Officers may transport the person to the Harford Memorial Hospital, Upper Chesapeake Hospital System.
- 3. Involuntary Admission.
 - a. Officers who have personally observed the actions of the individual and have reason to believe that the person is in clear and imminent danger of causing personal harm to him/herself or others, should transport the person to Harford Memorial Hospital or another appropriate facility.
 - b. Observations include but may not be limited to:
 - 1) The person is imminently dangerous to self or others.



The Aberdeen Police Department Policies & Procedures Manual



Chapter	21	Patrol	GO 18-079, 10/22/18
Section	15	Persons with Mental Health Issues	Supersedes Original Policy

- 2) The person is unable to care for self (unable or refuses to accept intervention which would meet minimum needs for food, clothes, shelter or physical well-being.)
 - 3) The person is suffering substantial physical deterioration and shows an inability to function if not treated immediately.
- c. The officer shall complete and submit to the receiving facility
 - 1) the Petition for Emergency Evaluation and
 - 2) the Certification by Peace Officer form.

I. Available Resources (41.2.7b)

- 1. Mental health resources available to the law enforcement officer.
 - a. Harford Mobile Crisis Center 410-638-5248:
 - 1) The Crisis Center is open 24/7 and can assist the officer with appropriate referrals.
 - 2) The officer should call the center and talk to a counselor about the situation.
 - 3) The counselor can assist with housing, therapy, and mental health evaluations.
 - 4) The Center has a Mobile Crisis Team that may be able to respond to the scene and assist in evaluating the person.
 - b. Harford Memorial Hospital Emergency Room (UCHS) 443-843-5000
 - 1) The officer can use this resource for voluntary or involuntary admissions.

J. Training

- a. Personnel shall receive initial training in Department procedures. (41.2.7d)
- b. Personnel shall receive refresher training annually. (41.2.7e)