

**MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
PATROL SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

**CHAPTER – NON-CRIMINAL/CIVIL
PAT 03-05
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**DATE
November 15, 2001
Rev: 07/20/17**

WALKAWAY PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS FROM TREATMENT FACILITIES

POLICY

It shall be the policy of this Department that upon receiving information that an **involuntarily** placed patient has walked away from any of the County's Mental Health Facilities or any facility designated by the County to provide psychiatric services and this facility is located in the Sheriff's Jurisdiction, a missing persons report will be taken by a patrol deputy if the Facility(s) request the patient be returned. Current APB/BOL guidelines will be utilized depending upon the patient's risk factors. In addition, the walkaway patient will be entered into the CLETS Missing and Unidentified Person System (MUPS) as soon as possible and no longer than four hours.

The following facilities have been designated by the County to provide psychiatric services:

- a. Psychiatric Emergency Services (Unit B)
- b. Marin General Hospital (Unit A)
- d. All State Hospitals
- e. All Veteran's Administration Hospitals

PROCEDURE

Involuntarily placed patients who walkaway (elope) from County psychiatric facilities or facilities designated by the County to provide psychiatric services in the Sheriff's jurisdiction.

Facility or conservator will call Communications Center at 479-2311 to report information.

Pursuant to WIC 7325, Department must be notified in writing from the psychiatric facility or conservator that patient is a walkaway (elopement) if the facility wants the patient to be returned. Facility or conservator will fax letter (similar to example attached) with name, address, date of birth, physical description, date/time 5150 hold was initiated, date/time 5150 hold expires to the Communication Center at 499-3636.

If located soon after notification or on viewed prior to notification, the patient shall be returned to the proper unit. Communication Center personnel will complete a CAD incident entry, with the information supplied by the beat deputy.

If not located soon after notification, the beat Deputy shall prepare a missing person report.

Communication Center personnel shall utilize current APB/BOL guidelines based on patient risk factors and also send a teletype to the law enforcement agency where the patient lives.

Communication Center shall enter the patient's information into the MUPS system as soon as possible and not longer than two hours from notification.

Patrol personnel shall make attempts to locate walkaway patients.

Investigations will conduct any required follow up.

If patient is located, pursuant to WIC 7325, Deputy (or Police Officer) **must** return the patient to the facility if the involuntary hold has not expired, even if the patient does not meet the criteria for WIC 5150 at the time of the detention. Deputy should check written notification to verify if hold has expired prior to returning the patient to the facility.

WIC 7325 provides the authority for Peace Officers to return walkaway psychiatric patients "...without the necessity of a warrant or court order."

If the involuntary hold has expired, Deputy can still transport patient to County Psychiatric facility (Unit B) if the patient currently meets the criteria for WIC 5150.

When walkaway patients are found, the beat Deputy shall complete a supplemental report and all outstanding bulletins will be canceled.

RELATED STANDARDS

AFFECTED DIVISIONS

Patrol
Communications

ATTACHMENTS

DATE OF REVISIONS

Originally General Order 95-04 dtd: 10/1/1995
11/15/2001
05/11/2007
07/20/2017

By Order Of

David Augustus, Captain
Bureau of Field Services