

BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING DIVISION
June 25, 2020

TRAINING BULLETIN

ARRESTS-MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR IN-CUSTODY PERSONS AND OTHERS

PURPOSE

Police personnel have a fundamental duty to ensure that medical treatment is provided to prisoners or others when treatment is required. The purpose of this training bulletin is to revise the procedure as to when an officer is required to obtain medical treatment for a prisoner; expand where treatment can be obtained; **and authorize the Jail nurse to accept a refusal from a prisoner who does not want medical treatment.** Additionally, this bulletin reminds employees of their responsibility to obtain medical treatment for prisoners and/or others in emergency or routine circumstances.

PROCEDURES

An officer having custody of a prisoner **who is, or complains of being ill, injured or in need of medication** shall:

- Cause the prisoner to be examined by the Jail Nurse, or the University of Alabama (UAB) Birmingham Emergency Room, or a designated hospital.

Note: Officers are no longer required to have a prisoner treated at UAB, the Jail Nurse or a designated hospital if the prisoner is involved in a fight, a traffic collision, or other incident if the prisoner does not complain of injury or if there is no apparent injury.

When a prisoner requires only routine medical treatment or other non-emergency care, the prisoner may be transported in a police vehicle to one of the following facilities;

- Department Jail Nurse; or,
- UAB Emergency Room; or,
- Designated hospitals.

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Prisoners or others requiring emergency medical attention shall only be transported by an ambulance. However, there are some circumstances when waiting for a ambulance is not prudent and a Department employee is authorized to transport an injured person in the emergency, for example:

- Waiting for the medics will delay immediate lifesaving treatment.
- Transportation in a police vehicle will not aggravate the injuries.

Note: Individuals requiring emergency medical attention shall only be transported in a police vehicle during an **unusual occurrence or tactical situation** when it is necessary to remove the individual from a position of immediate threat. In such situations, an ambulance shall be requested and the individual shall be moved only the distance required to reach a safe location.

RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST AN AMBULANCE

It shall be the responsibility of all Department employees to request an ambulance for a prisoner or any other person in need of emergency medical treatment or when it is apparent that they are in need of such assistance and are unable to request such treatment.

MEDICAL TREATMENT REQUIRED WHEN ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS USED

Whenever the Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) is used to control a suspect in custody, or being taken into custody, and the CEW darts make contact with the suspect's clothing or skin, the prisoner shall be immediately examined by medical personnel. If the prisoner loses consciousness, officers shall immediately request an ambulance.

Note: Medical personnel shall include a doctor or nurse at a contract hospital or jail dispensary, or a paramedic.

CONCLUSION

The Department recognizes the importance of providing appropriate medical treatment for prisoners and/or others; therefore, employee must ensure that medical treatment is obtained for prisoners or others consistent with this training bulletin.