



SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE GENERAL ORDERS	
DATE: 12/14/2020	GENERAL ORDER #279
SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH INCIDENTS	
AUTHORIZATION: SHERIFF WILLIAM E. YESSMAN	

OBJECTIVE: TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH MENTAL HEALTH INCIDENTS AND MENTAL HEALTH ARRESTS. WHEN DEALING WITH MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE ANY TIME A MENTAL HEALTH ARREST MUST BE MADE, IT WILL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9.41 OF THE NEW YORK STATE MENTAL HEALTH LAW.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office to follow the guidelines set forth in this general order.

DETAILS:

I. Procedure

A. When responding to a mental health incident all members should proceed with caution. Upon arrival the responding member should evaluate the situation and make a determination if back up will be needed. The member must make a determination as to whether the mentally ill person is acting in a manner that is likely to result in harm to him/her self or others. The following actions should be taken after a determination has been made as to arrest or no arrest.

1. No arrest

- a. Determine if the person has family in the area that can respond to the scene.
- b. Talk with the person to find out if they would like to talk with a mental health counselor.
 - i. If during the week, between 9 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Schuyler County Mental Health may be contacted about talking with the person.
 - ii. If during the week after 4:30 P.M., on the weekend or a holiday, Crisis Intervention should be called to speak with the person.

- c. Ascertain if the person can stay with a relative or friend until they can see a mental health counselor. Transport of the person is authorized to a relative or friend's house if they live in Schuyler County. If the relative or friend lives outside of Schuyler County in an adjoining county you must contact a supervisor to receive authorization to transport the person to the relative or friend's house if the relative cannot respond to the scene.
 - d. All effort should be made to turn the person over to a friend or relative and not be left alone.
2. Arrest of a person under Section 9.41 of the New York State Mental Health Law
- a. When a deputy arrests a subject under the provisions of Section 9.41 of the New York Mental Health Law, he or she will:
 - i. Notify dispatch
 - ii. Search the subject for weapons or any object that may cause harm to the subject or the hospital staff (e.g. pens, pencils, nail files, etc.).
 - iii. The deputy must determine whether the subject needs to be transported to see a mental health counselor or the subject needs to be transported to a mental health facility. If the subject has been drinking a mental health counselor **will not** speak with the subject and the subject will need to be transported directly to a mental health facility.
 - iv. If the subject needs to be transported to a mental health facility is violent, or may become violent, the deputy will need to make a determination whether a second deputy will be needed for the transport.
 - vi. St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira/VIA Arnot Ogden Hospital and Cayuga Medical Facility in Ithaca are the primary mental health facilities to be used by the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office unless a mental health worker or court order directs the subject to be transported to a different mental health facility or transportation to another mental health facility is warranted.

- vii. Upon arrival at the mental health facility the deputy will complete required admission forms for the facility.
- viii. The deputy will remain at the facility until the staff, along with their security has control over the subject.
- ix. Deputies will assist in notifications of family members if the subject that was transported to the mental health facility requests.
- x. Transportation of subjects, under the provisions of the New York Mental Health Law Section 9.41, will be conducted in accordance with general order 246.
- xi. Deputies are directed to follow the same procedures outlined above when enforcing Section 9.43 (Court ordered mental examinations) and Section 9.45 (Community Service ordered mental examination) of the New York Mental Health Law.