

DATE:	DECEMBER 17, 2015
NUMBER:	F.10
SUBJECT:	TARASOFF NOTIFICATIONS
RELATED SECTIONS:	SDSD P&P Section 6.120, W&I Code 8100 (b) (1)

PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for properly documenting Tarasoff notifications in all San Diego County detention facilities.

POLICY

Detention Services Bureau staff shall respond to and properly document all Tarasoff notifications occurring in the detention facilities. The facility watch commander shall be notified and take appropriate steps to ensure all documentation and notification requirements are met.

PROCEDURE

A Tarasoff warning or notification is when a licensed psychotherapist reports one of their patients has made a serious threat of physical violence against any reasonably identifiable victim(s). An inmate who informs the therapist he or she intends to harm their parole officer (or any other reasonably identifiable victim) upon release from custody is an example of when a Tarasoff notification is necessary.

Tarasoff notifications will be handled similarly to other threats of violence. Deputies will speak with the reporting party to gather information about the threat. Deputies will make a reasonable attempt to contact the victim to provide information about the threat of violence and the identity of the suspect.

Deputies will speak with the suspect to determine an appropriate course of action (i.e. crime report for Penal Code section 422). Deputies will attempt to locate the suspect if they have already been released from custody.

Deputies shall notify the watch commander of a Tarasoff warning as soon as possible and prepare a case report detailing the incident. To ensure Tarasoff cases are readily identifiable, deputies will select the "Tarasoff incident" option under the special studies drop down menu in NetRMS.

Deputies will also complete an "FD4074 Law enforcement report of firearms prohibition" form. Properly filling out this form and faxing it to the appropriate personnel will prohibit the suspect from purchasing a firearm or other deadly weapon for six months. The form is available [REDACTED] and will be faxed by the deputy to the Department of Justice (the fax number is on the form). A copy of the completed form will be scanned and attached to the case report. Deputies will document in their report the date and time the form was successfully faxed. These forms are only to be used in cases involving a licensed psychotherapist making a Tarasoff notification and not for other crime reporting purposes.

The facility watch commander or designee shall inform the communications center of all Tarasoff notifications. This will generate a CAD event documenting the Department's response to the incident. The watch commander or designee will provide the dispatcher with: the victim's name; identity of the suspect; information about the threat of violence; and information regarding notifications or contacts that were made.