

DATE:	MARCH 29, 2017
NUMBER:	M.29
SUBJECT:	HUNGER STRIKES
RELATED SECTIONS:	MSD H.12 , CCR TITLE 15, SEC. 1206

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines when an inmate refuses to eat and initiates a hunger strike.

POLICY

The refusal to eat, also known as a hunger strike, can be either proclaimed or unspecified by an inmate. While some inmates may inform staff they are on a hunger strike, others may not voice their intentions, but their refusal of meals may indicate a hunger strike. In either case, sworn staff shall be observant, make necessary notifications and document the incident. Medical staff will evaluate the seriousness of the situation and provide necessary medical care.

PROCEDURE

I. NOTIFICATIONS

- A. Sworn staff shall notify the watch commander and facility commander.
- B. Sworn staff shall notify the medical staff.

II. EVALUATION

- A. The medical staff shall evaluate the inmate's condition and take appropriate action (e.g., weight monitoring, hydration monitoring, appointment with psychiatrist, etc.) based on findings and identified needs.
- B. If necessary for closer monitoring, the inmate may be moved to administrative segregation.

III. OBSERVATION AND DOCUMENTATION BY DEPUTIES

- A. When an inmate initiates a hunger strike, the deputy shall document the incident in the Jail Information Management System (JIMS) via an inmate status report (ISR). The ISR shall include notifications made and any subsequent actions taken.
- B. The deputy responsible for meal conveyance shall provide and ensure that a meal is available to the inmate during the entire mealtime. The deputy will record the inmate's responses in the inmate's JIMS history.
- C. The deputy shall also monitor other food sources, including the inmate's commissary and food "passed" from other inmates and record information in an ISR.

- D. If the inmate states he/she is no longer on a hunger strike or the inmate's history in JIMS reflects such, the deputy shall document the information in an ISR.