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Sheriff

*San Diego County*

**SHERIFF**

## LINE-UP TRAINING

### Sobering Cell Procedures

### Topic # 17

*After discussing/reviewing the below training material in line-up (briefing), sworn staff shall sign off as completed in LMS. In the event a staff member is not present when this topic is discussed in line-up, they shall independently read, review, and complete the training.*

*By clicking "Yes" to "Have you completed this activity?" in LMS, you are attesting that you have viewed, read, and completed the training activity.*

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this training is to familiarize deputies with the procedures involved in sobering cell placements and the policies regarding sobering cell use.

#### II. POLICY

Sobering cells shall only be used for the holding of inmates who are a threat to their own safety or the safety of others and require a protective environment due to their state of intoxication (e.g., under the influence of drugs, alcohol, etc.). This excludes inmates who have life threatening withdrawal symptoms or need long term detoxification. Sobering cells shall never be used for disciplinary purposes.

This training is conducted in adherence to [DSB P&P Section J.2 - Sobering Cells](#) as well as [C.C.R. Title 15, Article 5 section 1056](#) and [C.C.R. Title 24, Part 2 Section 1231.2.4](#).

#### III. DISCUSSION

A. Staff shall review and discuss the following topics as described in [C.C.R. Title 15, Article 5 section 1056](#)

1. The sobering cell described in Title 24, Part 2, Section 1231.2.4, shall be used for the holding of inmates who are a threat to their own safety or the safety of others due to their state of intoxication and pursuant to written policies and procedures developed by the facility administrator.
2. Such inmates shall be removed from the sobering cell as they are able to continue in the processing.
3. In no case shall an inmate remain in a sobering cell over six hours without an evaluation by a medical staff person or an evaluation by custody staff, pursuant to



- written medical procedures in accordance with section 1213 of these regulations, to determine whether the prisoner has an urgent medical problem.
4. At 12 hours from the time of placement, all inmates will receive an evaluation by responsible health care staff. Intermittent direct visual observation of inmates held in the sobering cell shall be conducted no less than every half hour. Such observation shall be documented.
- B. Staff shall review and discuss the following topics and procedures as described in [DSB P&P Section J.2 - Sobering Cells](#) and related facility specific green sheets.
1. Sobering cell capacity
  2. Placement procedures
    - a. Property removal
    - b. Pat down searches
    - c. Inventory/storage of personal property
    - d. Items prohibited in sobering cells
  3. JIMS incident reporting
    - a. JIMS incident type codes
    - b. Reports must clearly articulate reason for placement
    - c. Report shall indicate if any force was used
    - d. Continued retention must be evaluated/documentated within every 6 hours
  4. Observation by sworn and medical staff
    - a. Observation log (J-19A form requirements)
    - b. Nurse's assessment to be obtained as soon as possible (no later than 30 minutes after initial placement).
    - c. Sworn staff observations at least [REDACTED]
    - d. Watch commander observations of inmates and documentation on the J-19A form
    - e. Evaluating/removing inmates from the sobering cell
    - f. Evaluation of inmates observed with declining medical and/or mental status
    - g. Placements exceeding 24 hours
      - i. Medical assessment by medical physician or psychiatric physician
      - ii. Determine if transfer to Emergency Department, MOB, or Psychiatric Stabilization Unit are warranted.
  5. Nutritional Requirements
    - a. Deputies are responsible for providing meals
    - b. Served in disposable container
    - c. All meal offerings documented on J-19A form
  6. Sobering cell sanitation
  7. Sobering cell fire safety
    - a. Risk of toxic fumes
  - b. Fire equipment locations near sobering cells (within 20 feet)
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