

DATE:	MAY 27, 2022
NUMBER:	M.29
SUBJECT:	HUNGER STRIKES
RELATED SECTIONS:	MSD H.12 , CCR TITLE 15, SEC. 1206

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines when an incarcerated person 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 incarcerated person. While some incarcerated persons 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. Health 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 health staff.

II. EVALUATION

- A. Health staff shall evaluate the incarcerated person'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 incarcerated person may be moved to administrative separation housing.

III. OBSERVATION AND DOCUMENTATION BY SWORN STAFF

- A. When an incarcerated person initiates a hunger strike, sworn staff 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 incarcerated person during the entire mealtime. The deputy will record the incarcerated person's responses in the JIMS history.
- C. Sworn staff shall also monitor other food sources, including the incarcerated person's commissary and food "passed" from other, incarcerated persons, and record this information in an ISR.

- D. If the incarcerated person states, they are no longer on a hunger strike or the incarcerated person's history in JIMS reflects such, sworn staff shall document the information in an ISR.