



Anne Arundel County Police Academy

TRAINING BULLETIN 2017-08



April 2017

Safe Stations

Background

The purpose of “Safe Stations” is to help someone suffering with addiction get into treatment and/or the behavioral health system, and away from the Criminal Justice System. This policy in no way diminishes the Police Department’s role in pursuing the arrest and conviction of those who sell narcotics. The Anne Arundel County Police Department will continue fighting to arrest and convict “drug dealers” who are poisoning our citizens and children. “Safe Stations” is an Anne Arundel County public safety initiative offering assistance to Anne Arundel County residents seeking help in their recovery from addiction. Any county resident can “walk into” a police or fire station in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis to receive help with recovery.

Procedure

Anne Arundel County residents entering a police facility (Safe Station) seeking help with their addiction will be assessed for immediate health concerns. The fire department will be notified should any health concerns be detected. Crisis Response will be notified in these cases so they can follow-up at the hospital if the individual is transported to the hospital. Any CDS paraphernalia or illegal drugs found in their possession will be confiscated and should be submitted for destruction per Index Code 1202. The individual will not be charged for any paraphernalia or CDS they are surrendering, while seeking help for their addiction, even if they change their mind at a later time.

In cases where there are no immediate health concerns, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) will be notified, and a CIT Officer will respond to the district station. When CIT Officers are not working, the closest patrol CIT trained officer will respond. If there are no CIT trained patrol officers available or there will be an unreasonable response time for a CIT trained patrol officer, supervisors should use discretion in having an appropriate patrol officer respond until a CIT Officer is available. **Officers interacting with persons suffering from addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding.**

Often times, people suffering from addiction ask for help only as a “last resort,” and may

be considering self-harm or suicide. An officer's interaction does make a difference. Crisis Response will also be contacted and a Crisis Response Clinician will respond to the station to work with the officer.

Upon arrival of the CIT officer, he/she will ascertain and verify if the person seeking help possesses any CDS, CDS paraphernalia or weapons (officer safety). This will include a search of the participant and persons accompanying them into a secure area of a police facility. Personnel will explain to the parties that they are entering a secure facility, and all persons are subject to a search. The CIT officer will take steps to positively identify the person seeking help through photo driver's license, photo identification card or other means.

Participation in "Safe Stations" is voluntary. If a potential program participant subsequently elects not to request assistance or continue with program screening, they will be allowed to leave, and no force or coercion will be used to detain or prevent them from leaving.

No questioning of the person will be initiated by officers in an effort to collect drug intelligence, determine the origins of any drugs relinquished by the person, or any other effort, which may undermine the intended purpose of this program - - **namely to encourage persons to seek assistance in finding recovery for their addiction without fear of arrest or police action.**

In cases where individuals seeking treatment enter a fire station, the fire department will contact Crisis Response through the warm line. There may be times when a patrol officer may have to respond to a fire station to assist by taking custody of CDS and paraphernalia. The responding officer will write an incident report, and submit the paraphernalia/or CDS for destruction per Index Code 1202. In these cases, fire department personnel will turn over the paraphernalia/or CDS to the responding officer, and the officer will not have interaction with those seeking help.

There may be instances when individuals requesting help in participating in the "Safe Stations" initiative may have an outstanding arrest warrant. When this occurs, the CIT Officer will walk the individual through the process. If it is determined they have an outstanding arrest warrant for a non-violent offense; a CIT Officer will contact the States Attorney's Office. The CIT Officer and States Attorney's Office will work with the courts using all legal, ethical and moral options available to help getting the individual into treatment. Each one of these type of instances will be handled on a case by case basis. Additionally, CIT will work with the States Attorney's Office for those in recovery to participate in Drug Court when appropriate.

There are many options for someone seeking recovery from addiction, which include in-patient, out-patient, recovery homes, resolution services and peer support specialists.

There are numerous reasons why a recovery option may be more appropriate; however, every participant will not leave without having a plan in place for their recovery.