

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SUBSTATION HOLDING FACILITY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TITLE: SUICIDAL & MENTALLY DISORDERED INMATES

NO: C-102

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/22/2004

REVISED: 08/06/2020

APPROVED BY: Commander Timothy Posey

REVIEWED: 01/15/2021

REFERENCE: Title 15, Article 3, Section 1029, Article 5, Section 1058 & Article 11, Section 1208, DBPPM Section C-200

POLICY:

Any inmate, who appears to be suicidal, says he/she will commit suicide, or attempts suicide, will be segregated from the general inmate population temporarily for evaluation and observation.

Any inmate, who is in need of psychiatric attention or is suspected of suffering from any type of mental disorder or developmental disability, will be segregated from the general inmate population. The inmate will immediately be transported to the Central Receiving Facility, an appropriate treatment facility, or Kern Medical, pending an evaluation from the medical and mental health staff.

A minor will be transported immediately to Juvenile Hall, and appropriate treatment facility, or Kern Medical, pending an evaluation from the medical and mental health staff.

Any inmate who appears to be developmentally disabled will be segregated from the general inmate population upon determination that it is necessary for the safety of the inmate.

Inmates who appear to be a danger to themselves or others, and inmates who display violent behavior, will be kept away from other inmates and monitored pending evaluation by the mental health staff.

All incidents involving such inmates will be brought to the attention of the medical staff and mental health staff as soon as possible.

PROCEDURE A – HANDLING SUICIDAL AND MENTALLY DISORDERED INMATES

The arresting officer or deputy who notices or is made aware of such behavior will:

- Interview the inmate to determine if an emotional problem does exist and if a suicide watch needs to be started.
- The inmate will be transported immediately to the Central Receiving Facility, an appropriate treatment facility, or Kern Medical, pending an evaluation from the medical and mental health staff.

DIRECTIVE 1

If an opinion from the medical staff is not readily available, an inmate will be considered mentally disordered if he/she appears to be a danger to himself/herself or others, or appears gravely disabled. An inmate will be considered as suicidal if there is reason to believe he/she will attempt, contemplate, or threaten to commit suicide.