



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: Community Service Technicians		NO: H-2200	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: 08/12/2024	REVIEWED: 08/12/2024	REVISED: 08/12/2024	UPDATED: 08/12/2024

POLICY

The Community Service Technician (CST) will be dispatched to non-emergency, non-violent calls where their specialized non-sworn support can be effectively utilized. CSTs will handle the following, with the exclusion of incidents involving violence, in-progress crimes, or where suspects are on scene:

- Petty and grand theft investigations
- Fraud or financial crime investigations
- Motor vehicle theft and/or recovery
- Annoying/harassing phone calls
- Burglary investigations
- Vandalism investigations
- Abandoned vehicles
- Lost and found property
- Missing person/juvenile investigations (13 years and older)
- Supplemental investigations
- Parking citation/parking enforcement
- Latent evidence processing
- Miscellaneous non-hazardous support functions

CSTs will not be involved with:

- In-progress calls or if the suspect is still on scene (After taking safety into consideration, CSTs may be used for traffic control on outer perimeters of active scenes if approved by the Watch Lieutenant)
- Investigations involving violence, including misdemeanor battery and brandishing a deadly weapon
- Missing persons investigations if the missing is at-risk, under the age of 13, was abducted by a parent, or other suspicious circumstances are involved. Missing Persons-Reporting is covered under KCSOPPM H-800.

- Any calls involving theft or discovery of firearms or narcotics
- Physically handling, collecting, seizing, or booking narcotics or firearms
- Obtaining witness statements in use of force investigations
- Any property crime where the suspect is known and follow up is warranted

Discretionary Deployment of CSTs: Supervisors (Watch Lieutenants, Patrol Sergeants) retain discretion to deploy CSTs to calls not explicitly listed, considering officer safety, legal compliance, and appropriateness. Any questions regarding CST deployment to specific calls require consultation with the on-duty Patrol Sergeant or Watch Lieutenant. CSTs may be deployed to outlying areas under approved circumstances, after consultation with the Watch Lieutenant or Patrol Commander.

CST Role Limitations: CSTs, as non-sworn civilians, cannot perform certain law enforcement functions or testify in court under specific conditions. Deputies may need to re-interview victims and witnesses for court proceedings.

Protocol for Inappropriately Assigned Calls: If a CST is dispatched to or arrives at a call deemed outside their responsibility, they have the authority to request reassignment of the call to deputy sheriffs.

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