

Medical Aid and Response

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that members often encounter persons who appear to be in need of medical aid and establishes a law enforcement response to such situations.

432.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Louisville Police Department that all officers and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

432.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, members should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the member should contact the Communications Center and request response by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Members should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the member should provide the Communications Center with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

1. The location where EMS is needed.
2. The nature of the incident.
3. Any known scene hazards.
4. Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:
 1. Signs and symptoms as observed by the member.
 2. Changes in apparent condition.
 3. Number of patients, sex, and age, if known.
 4. Whether the person is conscious, breathing, and alert, or is believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol.
 5. Whether the person is showing signs of extreme agitation or is engaging in violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, and imperviousness to pain.

Members should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Medical Aid and Response

Members should not direct EMS personnel regarding whether to transport the person for treatment.

432.4 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS

Except in extraordinary cases where alternatives are not reasonably available, members should not transport persons who are not in custody and who are unconscious, who have serious injuries, or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

For guidelines regarding transporting ill or injured persons who are in custody, see the Transporting Persons in Custody Policy.

Members should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

432.5 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, an officer shall not force that person to receive care or be transported.

However, members may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks the mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where a mental health crisis, behavioral health crisis, or substance abuse disorder may be a factor, the officer should consider proceeding with protective custody in accordance with the Civil Commitments Policy.

If an officer believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, the officer should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The officer may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person who is in custody still refuses, the officer will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the officer should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Members shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

432.5.1 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared at the emergency room prior to booking. If the officer has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the officer should contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

Medical Aid and Response

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the officer should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal, and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

Arrestees who appear to have a serious medical issue should be transported by ambulance. Officers shall not transport an arrestee to a hospital without a supervisor's approval.

432.6 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies.

432.7 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE

A member should use an AED only after the member has received the required training (CRS § 13-21-108.1).

432.7.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY

Members who are issued AEDs should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly shall be taken out of service and given to the Deputy Chief who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any member who uses an AED shall contact the Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS (CRS § 13-21-108.1).

432.7.2 AED REPORTING

Any member using an AED will complete an incident report detailing its use.

432.7.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE

The Deputy Chief should ensure appropriate training that includes training in CPR and AED use is provided to members authorized to use an AED (CRS § 13-21-108.1).

The Deputy Chief is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and tested consistent with the manufacturer's operational guidelines, and will retain records of all maintenance and testing in accordance with the established records retention schedule (CRS § 13-21-108.1).

432.8 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID ANTAGONIST

Only members authorized by the Department may possess or administer an opioid antagonist such as naloxone hydrochloride or any similarly acting drug for the treatment of a drug overdose. The medication

Medical Aid and Response

shall be administered in accordance with written protocol specified by the medical professional who prescribed the overdose medication for use by the member (CRS § 12-30-110; CRS § 12-255-128).

432.8.1 OPIOID ANTAGONIST USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who are qualified to administer an opioid antagonist should handle, store, and administer the medication consistent with their training. Members should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Deputy Chief.

Any member who administers an opioid antagonist should contact the Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

432.8.2 OPIOID ANTAGONIST REPORTING

Any member administering an opioid antagonist should detail its use in an appropriate report.

The Deputy Chief will ensure that the Administrative Services Manager is provided enough information to meet applicable state reporting requirements.

432.8.3 OPIOID ANTAGONIST TRAINING

The Deputy Chief should ensure training is provided to members authorized to administer an opioid antagonist.

432.9 FIRST-AID TRAINING

The Deputy Chief should ensure officers receive periodic first-aid training appropriate for their position.

