

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 8

May 16, 2007

SUBJECT: INCIDENT DISPOSITION CODES FOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING PERSONS SUSPECTED OF MENTAL ILLNESS - REVISED

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY - SUPERCEDES OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 1, 2005

PURPOSE: The Department is mandated to track the outcome of all calls for service involving persons suspected of mental illness in order to improve the types of services provided to the mentally ill community. Operations Order No. 1, dated January 13, 2005, *Incident Disposition Codes for Incidents Involving Persons Suspected of Mental Illness*, established five mental illness-related incident disposition codes as a tool to track the final dispositions of these calls. However, a recent audit identified a need to revise the codes to more accurately capture the information needed.

This Order deactivates incident disposition codes *IOM - Indication of Mental Illness*, and *QRM - Subject Questioned and Released, Indication of Mental Illness*, and activates the new code ***NMI - No Indication of Mental Illness***. It also clarifies the protocol for clearing all mental illness-related incidents.

PROCEDURE:

I. MENTAL ILLNESS DISPOSITION CODES - REVISED. The following are the revised four mental illness-related incident disposition codes:

- * **ARM - Arrest, Indication of Mental Illness.** Subject arrested for a crime, and exhibits indication of mental illness;
- * **HOM - Hospitalized/Hold, Indication of Mental Illness.** Subject met California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5150 (5150 WIC) hold criteria and was hospitalized;
- * **REM - Referral, Indication of Mental Illness.** Subject exhibits signs of mental illness, but does not meet requirement for a hold or arrest; subject was released with referral advice; and,
- * **NMI - No Indication of Mental Illness.** Subject does not exhibit any indication of mental illness.

Note: The **NMI code** is used to track calls in which mental illness was initially suspected, but later determined by officers not to be evident.

II. **OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** Officers shall use one of the four mental illness-related incident disposition codes to clear all incidents dispatched as involving a person suspected of mental illness, (e.g., "918-person with mental illness," "245-ADW suspect, possibly mentally ill," etc.).

A. **Indication of Mental Illness Exists.** Upon completing their investigation and determining that indication of mental illness exists, officers shall use one of the following three disposition codes to clear the incident via the radio or Mobile Data Computer (MDC):

- * **ARM** - Arrest, Indication of Mental Illness;
- * **HOM** - Hospitalized/Hold, Indication of Mental Illness; or,
- * **REM** - Referral, Indication of Mental Illness.

Furthermore, officers shall also use one of the above mental illness codes to clear any incident not initially dispatched as involving mental illness, but, upon investigation, is determined to indicate mental illness.

Example: A call is dispatched as a "415 man inside the restaurant". Upon investigation, officers determine the subject suffers from depression and meets the criteria for a 5150 WIC hold; officers shall use "HOM" to clear the call.

B. **No Indication of Mental Illness Exists.** Upon determining that no indication of mental illness exists, officers shall clear the incident using the disposition code:

- * **NMI** - No Indication of Mental Illness.

Officers shall not use "OCC - Officer Completed Call," or other standard disposition codes (e.g., ARR, RPT, ADV, QNR, etc.), to clear any calls originally dispatched as involving mental illness. However, officers should document the specific action taken (e.g., arrest, report, questioned and released, etc.) via the radio or in the incident "comments"

section via the MDC, and on their Daily Field Activity Reports (DFAR).

Exception: The disposition code "**GOA - Gone on Arrival**" shall be used in instances in which the parties (person reporting or subject) can not be located for officers to make a determination if mental illness is involved or not.

III. COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY. Each commanding officer shall ensure compliance with the protocols established in this Order.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION'S RESPONSIBILITY. When practicable, Communications Division dispatchers shall assist officers in using the appropriate disposition codes to clear mental illness-related incidents.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Detective Support and Vice Division, shall monitor compliance with this Order in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

EARL C. PAYSINGER, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

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