



Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS

EMS Policies and Procedures

Standard Operating Procedure: 3.20	Effective Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: Transportation of Patient While in Custody	Section: Emergency Medical Services
Authorized: Michael Stoner, Assistant Chief	Revision Date: N/A

I. PURPOSE

The Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS (DFEMS) response to law enforcement incidents and correctional facilities shall be carried out in a secure and efficient manner in order to provide for the safety of Department personnel, patients, and law enforcement/correctional officers.

II. DEFINITIONS

Emergency Petition: a legal document that allows an individual to be taken into custody for transport to a hospital for a subsequent emergency psychiatric evaluation because the individual:

1. Has a mental disorder.
2. The individual presents a danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others.

In Maryland, an emergency petition may only be made by a physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner, licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, health officer or designee of a health officer who has examined the individual, or a peace officer who personally has observed the individual or the individual's behavior.

III. PROCEDURES

A. FACILITY RESPONSES:

1. Upon notification to the Carroll County Public Safety Answering Point (Carroll Communications) of a request for EMS resources at a law enforcement or correctional facility, the following information, at a minimum, shall be requested:
 - a. Name of the institution.
 - b. Name of the individual calling.

- c. Telephone number at which immediate information can be obtained pertaining to this incident, when applicable.
- d. Number of patients.
- e. Nature of injury/illness.
- f. Condition of patient.
- g. Entrance to be used by responding personnel.

B. GUIDELINES FOR SECURITY OF PERSONNEL:

1. Responding apparatus shall await the arrival of police/correctional personnel at facility access points to assure timely access to both the facility and the patient.
2. DFEMS responders shall request that at least one police/correctional officer always remain with personnel while inside the premises.
3. DFEMS responders shall work with law enforcement/correctional officers so that responders are able to operate in a safe and secure area that is appropriate for providing patient care. In circumstances where personnel provide patient care involving entrapment or when movement may endanger the patient's life, DFEMS responders shall request that the immediate area will be cleared of all other prisoners and the area made safe and secure.
4. DFEMS responders shall request access to the patient that allows for a wheeled ambulance stretcher in order to safely move patients.
5. DFEMS personnel shall work with law enforcement/correction officers to ensure they maintain rapid access to equipment on their apparatus should it become necessary.
6. DFEMS responders shall request that a police/correctional officer ride on board the ambulance with each prisoner transported.
 - a. The decision to bring a weapon into an ambulance is the sole decision of the transporting police/correctional officer.
7. DFEMS personnel shall not be responsible for patient security.
8. Patients requiring medical restraints shall be handled pursuant to Policy 3.18 (Patient Restraints) and the appropriate Maryland Medical Protocols.
9. DFEMS personnel are not responsible for providing police/correctional facility personnel accompanying the ambulance to the hospital with transportation back to the police/correctional institution.
10. DFEMS personnel shall not operate within a law enforcement/correctional facility unless the above stated conditions can be accomplished by the facility personnel. If these conditions are not able to be accomplished, providers are authorized to delay patient care and move to a safe and secure area.
 - a. Personnel that find correctional facility personnel are unable to accomplish the conditions outlined in this Policy shall contact a Shift Commander immediately, or as soon as is feasible without delaying patient care. The goal is to quickly determine the most appropriate course of action based on the circumstances with as little delay to patient care as is possible.

C. GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT CARE:

1. Patients in custody or transported from a police/correctional facility or under an Emergency Petition, shall be transported to the closest appropriate hospital, based on the patient's condition and hospital status.
2. All medical communications to consultation centers and hospitals shall include the unique nature of the situation (e.g., patient is a prisoner from a police/correctional facility).

IV. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding Transportation of Patient While in Custody or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS.