



**MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS
AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Subject: Inmate Mental Health Screening

Number: 303-B

Effective Date: August 28, 2002

Revised Date: January 24, 2024

Rescinds: 303-Inmate Mental Health Screening
303-A – Inmate Mental Health Screening

Dated: January 1, 2001
August 28, 2002

Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for mental health screening for inmates to determine mental health risk status and provide for inmate safety.

II. INITIAL GOALS

- A. Screen all inmates for suicidal ideation and/or severe mental health problems.
- B. Identify inmates who have severe mental health problems and/or suicidal ideation.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The booking officer is responsible for administering the initial medical screening form to all inmates at the time of intake.
- B. If the inmate's responses indicate current thoughts of suicidal ideation or the detention supervisor believes the inmate manifests suicidal ideation, threats to self-harm, or severe mental illness, then the inmate will be denied entry into the facility. It will be the arresting officer's responsibility to have the inmate transported to a medical facility for a mental health evaluation.

- C. After medical clearance has been obtained and the inmate has been cleared for incarceration:
- i. Officers will remove all items from the inmate that may cause physical harm such as, but not limited to, shoelaces, drawstrings, belt, etc.
 - ii. The inmate will be placed in an observation cell.
 - iii. Continue physical inspections of the inmate every fifteen minutes and document on the jail check log sheet.
 - iv. In JMS, the "Special Watch" tab identifying Suicide Risk shall be selected with proper code and description.
 - v. Notify the Detention Supervisor of the High Risk Inmate.
- D. It is the detention supervisor's responsibility to coordinate the inmate's safety while in observation. The supervisor shall contact and follow the specific recommendations given by medical professionals. It is also the detention supervisor's responsibility to review all inmate medical questionnaires to ensure each inmate's classification and housing is consistent with the responses indicated on the questionnaire. If the inmate poses a danger to themselves or others while in the facility, the restraint chair may be utilized, once approved by the detention supervisor.
- E. During the medical screening, if an inmate indicates they have a mental health condition or was once suicidal but does not currently have thoughts of self-harm, that inmate shall be placed in an observation cell. All items that may cause physical harm such as, but not limited to, inmate's shoelaces, belt, etc. must be removed. A blanket may be issued if approved by the detention supervisor.