MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: Detention Facility Medical Procedures	***Number: 317-A***
Effective Date: January 24, 2024	***Revised Date: February 27, 2026***
Rescinds: S-120 – Death of Inmate	***Dated: 07-20-2015***
S-121 – Attempted Suicide	***07-20-2015***
S-146 – Medical Services	***12-02-2015***

Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the providing medical services to inmates of this holding facility.

II. POLICY

The Myrtle Beach Police Department will provide inmates with basic first aid for minor medical issues and transport those needing advanced medical care to an appropriate medical facility for treatment. When time permits and resources are available, we will provide inmates with access to the Myrtle Beach Police Department Mental Health Alliance as well as the Myrtle Beach Fire Department's Opioid Program Coordinator.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Inmates with Illness, Injury, or Disability

1. The detention facility is not equipped to treat inmates requiring medical attention at a level higher than basic first aid. Therefore:

    a. No inmate shall be booked into the holding facility or otherwise held by this agency who has injuries or illnesses that require immediate medical attention beyond basic first

aid. This includes obvious injuries or illness, as well as situations in which arrestees

i. Suffer from extreme alcohol intoxication or possible drug overdose,

ii. Exhibit symptoms consistent with severe mental disorder,

iii. Have indicated intentions of committing suicide or shown signs of being a suicide risk, or

iv. Exhibit symptoms or report conditions of possible contagious disease.

b. Trained EMS personnel may treat minor injuries that do not require transport to a medical care facility.

c. If the severity of medical conditions is unclear or if an inmate requests medical attention, he or she shall be transported as soon as possible to a medical care provider. Security of inmates shall be provided during transport and while at a medical care facility.

d. Once the inmate is discharged, they will be transported back to the Myrtle Beach temporary holding facility or another detention facility.

e. Inmates requiring prolonged treatment at a medical care facility may be issued a medical courtesy if authorized by the watch commander. Authorization will be made on a case by case basis, and the watch commander is responsible for consulting with the court before authorizing a medical courtesy.

2. Screening:

a. The arresting officer(s) and any officer transporting an inmate to this facility shall communicate all information relating to inmate injuries or illnesses, whether requiring immediate medical attention or not, to the booking officer or other appropriate holding facility personnel and shall note this information in a report.

b. All inmates will be medically screened during the booking process unless the inmate is too disorderly or there is

another extenuating circumstance. In such cases, the screening will take place as soon as appropriate. The screening will include:

i. Current physical and mental health;

ii. Medications taken and specific health requirements;

iii. Behavioral observation, including state of consciousness and mental status;

iv. Notation of body deformities, trauma markings, bruises, lesions, ease of movement, jaundice, and other physical characteristics of medical interest;

v. Rashes and infestations;

vi. Likelihood of a suicide attempt by the inmate.

B. First Aid Kit

1. A first aid kit is located and accessible to officers within the detention facility.

2. The first aid kit will be inspected at least once a week, and it will be replenished as necessary.

C. Discovery of an Unresponsive Inmate or an Inmate Attempting Suicide

1. Upon finding an unresponsive inmate and/or one attempting suicide, the detention officer will sound the alarm (i.e., radio, yelling, etc.) to alert other detention officers of the need for assistance.

2. The first available detention employee will summon EMS and notify the shift supervisor or designee.

3. Detention officers shall perform a life-signs check utilizing basic first-aid procedures. Basic first aid shall be performed until the arrival of EMS, when life-saving measures shall be turned over to them.

4. An inmate found hanging shall be cut down, and the ligature should be removed from the neck, leaving the knot intact when/if possible.

5. Any inmate who survives after being found unresponsive or attempting suicide shall be transported to a medical facility for medical and psychological evaluation.

6. Should it be obvious that the inmate is deceased, the body shall not be disturbed in any way, including covering of the body.

7. Unauthorized individuals shall be removed from the scene.

8. All inmates in the same cell as the inmate victim shall be treated as suspects.

    a. No inmate may take any property or items from the scene.

    b. All inmates shall be relocated and separated from each other and other inmates. If separate cells are not available, then two detention officers shall be assigned to monitor the inmates in a large cell, so they do not discuss the inmate victim or the incident.

    c. Inmates shall be searched as they are placed in another cell. The shift supervisor will decide if a strip search is necessary based on the available information about the injuries of the inmate victim.

    d. These inmates may not be placed back into the population until authority is given by the investigating officer in charge.

9. The facility shall be locked down.

    a. MBPD personnel shall be notified to limit arrestees to urgent, necessary arrests.

    b. Other agencies (South Carolina Highway Patrol, Horry County Police, etc.) shall be notified that our facility is not accepting inmates.

    c. Once the investigating officer in charge gives the all clear, the acceptance of inmates shall be passed on to Patrol Supervisors and other agencies.

    d. The telephones in the cells shall be turned off, and all inmate phone privileges will be suspended until an all clear is given by the investigating officer in charge.

10. As soon as the scene is stable, the on-duty supervisor shall notify the chain of command and provide initial details to include:

    a. Inmate's name;

    b. Method of attempt;

    c. Condition of the inmate;

    d. Need for any additional resources.

11. The on-duty supervisor shall preserve the location as a crime scene and notify the watch commander and OPS to coordinate responsibility and resources for the following:

    a. Evaluate the need for additional resources (manpower, counselling, equipment, etc.);

    b. Preserve the location and method;

    c. Photograph the scene;

    d. Photograph the injuries (or alleged injuries), if possible;

    e. Interview the inmate, if possible;

    f. Collect witness statements from officers and inmates;

    g. Preserve the jail check log;

    h. Collect and preserve BWC and Milestone video;

    i. Notify SLED if fatal or may become fatal;

    j. Notify the staff mental health counselor, if applicable;

    k. Complete and submit the Myrtle Beach Report of Attempted Suicide to the division captain within 15 days;

    l. Complete the required South Carolina Department of Corrections reporting form and submit it within five days.

D. In-Custody Deaths

1. All in-custody deaths shall be investigated according to protocols and procedures as previously established by this department and state or local authorities.

2. The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) will be notified of all in-custody deaths so they may initiate an investigation.

3. The Chief of Police shall request an autopsy by the County Coroner to ascertain the cause of death.

4. The death of an inmate must be reported in writing to the Jail and Prison Inspection Division within seventy-two (72) hours of the occurrence.