

## Survey to Chief APOs

### Issue: Hospital Duty

#### Question (from Carbon County)

Short story is we had a person in custody. He was taken to the hospital and was eventually admitted. Our policy has been that once a person is admitted, that we do not stay. We ask that the hospital notify us or 911 if the person leaves or is discharged.

After being admitted, the officers left. About an hour later, he took off. So now it is an issue and PSP got involved. We went with our policy, but now are looking at possibly making changes.

What do other counties do in a hospital situation? If so, how many officers stay? And do they have any special training?

#### Allegheny County

If the case involves a warrant, the Sherriff or police are responsible for guarding the person while in the hospital. If no warrant, POs do not stay at hospital.

#### Columbia County

We stay with the person until released from the Hospital. At times if it is days, we may coordinate with our Sheriff's Dept. to help with shift coverage at the hospital.

#### Cumberland County

Same as Lebanon

#### Delaware County

Depending on who/where the individual is taken into custody determines who in our County will stay with the individual. It is typically our Sheriff's department, Park Police or our officers. Once a determination is made that the person is being admitted, the prison is contacted and they send staff to monitor the individual until they are ready for discharge and released into their custody.

#### Elk County

If it is a client that we cannot lift the detainer due to safety issues to the community, our Sheriff's department will do the hospital duty. Our POs do not do hospital duty.

#### Erie County

We leave once admitted

### Fayette County

Generally, the same as Wayne County. Hospital police will notify us when they are about to be released.

### Jefferson County

Jefferson also sits on the offender. Officers will rotate 8 hour shifts if necessary. Pay is overtime after 40 hours.

### Lancaster County

Similar to Carbon. We do communicate with the hospital security staff and emphasize to medical staff the existence of Bench Warrant and request that we be notified if they are getting ready to discharge the individual. But the reality is sometimes we get notified, sometimes we do not.

### Lebanon County

Sheriffs or police will handle the individuals with warrants.

If we take someone to Booking and they need to go to the hospital after we have dropped them off, we will accompany the ambulance and sit with the person in custody until the prison can send someone to sit with the individual. This has been challenging lately due to staffing at the prison.

If it is someone in our care, we have waited large periods of time at the hospital to get someone cleared. If the individual is admitted to the hospital, a decision is made on a case-by-case basis as to whether we will stay. We have typically left and rely on hospital security/nursing to let us know when they are ready for discharge. Obviously, this does not always work out.

### Lehigh County

If an individual has an open warrant, our department sits on the defendant between 8:30-4:30 and after-hours/weekends our sheriff's department sits on the individual until they are discharged. However, there are circumstances (depending on the PV and underlying charges) when we reduce the bail to ROR or we request the hospital notify us prior to their discharge and then we go back to the hospital and transfer them to prison.

### Luzerne County

We have maintained custody and have POs assigned for duty at the medical facility. We usually have two (2) POs for safety issues. We utilize an "on-call" roster for such events. Over the years we have found that hospital security may assist but if we intend to detain then it is up to us to make arrangements. Even short-term medical clearances (Emergency Room) upon P/V arrests require POs to maintain custody pending medical clearance for lodging at the correctional facility. Our POs are trained uniformly (both juvenile and adult divisions) as they cover for each other depending on scenarios.

We evaluate each violation and make decisions based upon criteria- such as threat to the community/ victim/or offender him/herself. Do we lodge?

“302” commitment for mental health is a different scenario whereby there is a structure in place for these placements. Suicide threats needs to be handled by mental health professionals and they make a determination as to release to the street (detain at that time?) or (secured) hospitalization of the offender.

Each case is different, but if there is an intent to detain- you have to weigh your actions. You are responsible for that person in custody until you lodge. (Unless you determine a change in status- and make your best thoroughly informed judgment)

#### Northampton County

Same as Elk. Our officers do no do hospital duty

#### Northumberland County

We sit on the offender in the hospital because we have had the same issue in the past. Our hospitals do not cooperate with notifying before discharge and offenders have a tendency to run.

#### Philadelphia County

In Philadelphia County, Sheriffs or police will handle the individuals with this type of custody.

#### Susquehanna County

Same as Carbon. Once admitted, we are out.

#### Washington County

We are the same as Luzerne. Happens all the time. We just sat on a guy for twelve days. However, it was the right thing to do and the PJ signed off on all the overtime.

#### Wayne County

We leave once admitted. Hospital will advise upon any pending release. Deal with the case then.

#### Westmoreland County

Our officers will stay until relieved by our Sherriff's Office

#### York County

Same as Allegheny County