



CHARLOTTESVILLE - ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

TOPIC: Emergency Custody Order (ECO)	S.O.P. # 3.6
Approved by: Lair D. Haugh, Chief	Revised: 2/9/2003 Approved:

I. PURPOSE

- a. To establish procedures for assisting a patient who needs treatment or transport to a health care facility, but refuses.

II. DEFINITION

- a. An Emergency Custody Order (ECO) is issued by the magistrate after a person is taken into custody by the police and allows a person to be held for observation and assessment for up to four (4) hours.
- b. A Temporary Detention Order (TDO) is a civil order issued by the magistrate which directs police to take a person in custody and transport them to a specific location for evaluation and treatment. While normally issued for persons who are believed to be a danger to themselves or others, or substantially unable to care for themselves because of mental illness or disease, they may be issued for someone in need of assessment for a medical problem (a "medical TDO"). A patient may be held with a TDO for a period of seventy-two (72) hours.

III. PROCEDURE

- a. If the AIC feels that the patient is a danger to themselves or others, or is unable to care for themselves, then an attempt should be made to talk the patient into going to an appropriate facility under their own free will.
- b. If the patient refuses, or is combative, then Police and the Duty Officer shall be requested to respond to the scene for assistance.
- c. The AIC should then contact on-line medical direction through MEDCOM to obtain further advice and direction.