



Sarnia Police Services Board Policy

Issue Number:

SPS-BP-LE-013

Subject: Police Response to Persons who are Emotionally Disturbed or have a Mental Illness or a Developmental Disability	Effective Date: January 23, 2025
Replaces: September 14, 2023	Distribution: All Members
Last Reviewed: January 23, 2025	Expiration Date: Indefinite
Approved By: Board Chair	Signature: <i>Paul Wiersma</i>

A Legislative/Regulatory Requirements

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, ("CSPA") provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by **Section 10** of the **CSPA**.

Subsection 38 (2) of the **CSPA** provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing.

Subsection 39 (1) of the **CSPA** requires the Board's Strategic Plan include quantitative and qualitative performance objectives and indicators of outcomes relating to interactions with persons who appear to have a mental health condition.

Subsection 39 (1) 4 of the **CSPA** requires that the Strategic Plan of the Police Service Board address police interactions with persons who appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.

Subsection 6 (1) 4. viii O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General) requires the Chief of Police to establish written procedures respecting police response to persons who are in crisis, including those persons who appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.

B Policy Statement

1. It is the policy of the Sarnia Police Service Board that investigations involving persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability be conducted professionally and thoroughly, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief of Police.
2. Further, the Board is committed to working in partnership with community mental health agencies to provide prompt coordinated service delivery and with community agencies, persons with mental illnesses and their families, to reduce the stigma of mental illness and to share the responsibility for improving the quality of life for persons who suffer from mental illnesses and disorders.

C Board Policy

1. It is the policy of the Sarnia Police Service Board that the Chief of Police shall:
 - (a) Develop and maintain written procedures that address the police response to persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability;
 - (b) Ensure those procedures are in accordance with **subsection 6 (1) 4. viii of O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General)**.
2. The Chief shall, where possible, work with appropriate community members and agencies, healthcare providers, government agencies, municipal officials, other criminal justice agencies, and the local Crown Attorney to address Service issues relating to persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.
3. The Chief shall ensure that all members have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities to deal with persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.
4. The Chief shall ensure that the Service's Skills Development and Learning Plan addresses training of members, on:
 - (a) Local protocols;
 - (b) Conflict resolution and use of force in situations involving persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability; and

- (c) The provisions of the ***Mental Health Act***.
5. The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30th of each year in respect of police response to persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability. The report shall include:
- (a) A summary of the written procedures concerning police response to persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability;
 - (b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures;
 - (c) A summary of the training given to members with respect to police response to persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability;
 - (d) A summary of issues raised and/or discussed with community partners relating to police response to persons who are in crisis, including those persons appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.