

# CRISIS INTERVENTION

## INTRODUCTION:

This scenario is designed to provide the explorers with the basic principles concerning person or persons that are suicidal/mentally unstable or under the influence of substances that place them at risk to themselves or others. This scenario training manual is not all inclusive, but does suggest some specific techniques that should be used, although other methods can be just as equally effective. The focus of this training manual is to provide principles that are flexible and adaptable for the Crisis Intervention scenarios. Following the basic principles in this manual should allow the explorer to successfully handle these law enforcement competition scenarios safely and professionally. It is important for officers to be familiar with the different types of intervention.

Examples of intervention options include:

- relocating the person to a safe environment
- taking the person into custody if he or she has committed a crime
- initiating an involuntary treatment referral via the Baker or Marchman Acts
- making a referral for services
- arranging for or providing transportation as necessary

An officer must decide if people involved in a crisis must be removed from the situation for their safety. When dealing with people in crisis, you must answer these questions:

Can the people in crisis care for themselves? Are they a threat to themselves or others?

## TYPICAL SCENARIO:

Team will be dispatched to a location requiring law enforcement for an individual having some type of personal crisis. Team will react appropriately by using problem solving techniques and crisis intervention to try to resolve the situation peacefully. *Note: For the purposes of this event, NO TASERS, PEPPER SPRAY or LESS-LETHAL DEVICES can be deployed/used.* The overall purpose of this scenario is verbal communication with the suspect, to identify the crisis, develop a plan, and to reach a peaceful resolution.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**“Incompetent to consent to treatment”** means that a person’s judgment is so affected by his or her mental illness that the person lacks the capacity to make a well-reasoned, willful, and knowing decision concerning his or her medical or mental health treatment.

**“Mental illness”** means an impairment of the mental or emotional processes that exercise conscious control of one’s actions or of the ability to perceive or understand reality, which impairment substantially interferes with the person’s ability to meet the ordinary demands of living. For the purposes of this part, the term does not include a developmental disability as defined in chapter 393, intoxication, or conditions manifested only by antisocial behavior or substance abuse impairment.

**“Receiving facility”** means any public or private facility designated by the department to receive and hold involuntary patients under emergency conditions or for psychiatric evaluation and to provide short-term treatment. The term does not include a county jail.

### **Involuntary Examination—394.463. (Baker Act)**

(1) CRITERIA.—A person may be taken to a receiving facility for involuntary examination if there is reason to believe that the person has a mental illness and because of his or her mental illness:

- (a)1. The person has refused voluntary examination after conscientious explanation and disclosure of the purpose of the examination; or
2. The person is unable to determine for himself or herself whether examination is necessary; and

(b)1. Without care or treatment, the person is likely to suffer from neglect or refuse to care for himself or herself; such neglect or refusal poses a real and present threat of substantial harm to his or her well-being; and it is not apparent that such harm may be avoided through the help of willing family members or friends or the provision of other services; or

2. There is a substantial likelihood that without care or treatment the person will cause serious bodily harm to himself or herself or others in the near future, as evidenced by recent behavior.

**NOTE:** A law enforcement officer **shall** take a person who appears to meet the criteria for involuntary examination into custody and deliver the person or have him or her delivered to

the nearest receiving facility for examination. The officer shall execute a written report detailing the circumstances under which the person was taken into custody.

**397.675 Criteria for involuntary admissions, including protective custody, emergency admission, and other involuntary assessment, involuntary treatment, and alternative involuntary assessment for minors, for purposes of assessment and stabilization, and for involuntary treatment. (Marchman Act)**

A person meets the criteria for involuntary admission if there is good faith reason to believe the person is substance abuse impaired and, because of such impairment:

- (1) Has lost the power of self-control with respect to substance use; and either
  - (2)(a) Has inflicted, or threatened or attempted to inflict, or unless admitted is likely to inflict, physical harm on himself or herself or another; or
  - (b) Is in need of substance abuse services and, by reason of substance abuse impairment, his or her judgment has been so impaired that the person is incapable of appreciating his or her need for such services and of making a rational decision in regard thereto; however, mere refusal to receive such services does not constitute evidence of lack of judgment with respect to his or her need for such services.

**TIME:**

A typical suicidal/mentally unstable person scenario is completed within an average of 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the scenario, number of all involved persons, and the location (environment). The maximum time limit is 20 minutes.

**ORGANIZATION:**

An explorer team is comprised of four (4) explorers, with one member being the primary officer (P1) and their partner (P2). The other two explorers will be backup designated as B3 and B4. This should be established prior to arriving at the scenario pre-briefing. The primary officer will be one who will delegate responsibilities to the other members of the team and act as the “leader” throughout the scenario. During the scenario, if P1 requires backup they must request it through Dispatch/Judge. This may benefit the explorers to divide up tasks and complete the scenario as thoroughly but quickly as possible.

**TEAMWORK:**

The explorer team will need to show they are working together and that everyone is contributing to the team. Team members should show they are giving suggestions or their recommendations on how to accomplish tasks to their team leader to make the final decision.

## **WEAPON SAFETY SKILLS:**

If the team encounters a person with a deadly weapon, then the explorers should have their firearms pointed out toward the suspect they are dealing with at the “high-ready” position. This is to ensure they can engage the suspect if they come out at them in a deadly force manner. Another safe direction is keeping the firearm in a “low ready” position, but not pointed at the ground. At all times, the explorer must keep their trigger finger off the trigger but indexed along the side of the firearm. Explorers should avoid all crossfire situations or “lasering” situations (the act of pointing your firearm muzzle at one of your teammates) as this can be points deducted especially if an explorer shoots one of their own teammates.

## **BRIEFING:**

The explorer team’s primary officers will be informed of the dispatch call for the scenario by the judge. The judge will act at the dispatch for the duration of the scenario. The primary officer at that time can request additional information from the judge if available (weapons, location history, and criminal history). The Judge should re-emphasize that non-lethal weapons will not be available for use during the scenario.

## **ARRIVAL:**

The team leader should radio dispatch to advise they are “on scene” or in the area. The primary officers should make contact with any witnesses or complainants that can provide any updated information. Team leader should request additional backup to help control the scene, if needed.

## **IDENTITY OF SUSPECT/COMPLAINANT:**

A team member should stay with the complainant or witness to obtain all their personal information such as their full name, date of birth, sex, race. They should also try to obtain as much information about the individual having the personal crisis. All subjects should be run through dispatch (NCIC/TCIC) for any warrants. The name portion should be spelled using the phonetic alphabet (military or law enforcement version is acceptable). This is very important if they do not have any positive identification. Most importantly, the team member with the complainants or witnesses needs to ensure they do not allow them to approach or come near the individual having the personal crisis, as this may escalate the situation.

## **APPROACH:**

Team should approach tactically using any cover and concealment available to them until they reach a point where verbal contact with the individual can be made. Primary officer should communicate any new information or anything officer safety related to be broadcast to other officers. All team members should maintain a professional and courteous attitude toward individual at all times throughout the scenario, regardless of whatever the personal crisis involves.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

A majority of the scenario will be how the team “communicates” with the person in crisis to determine what the personal crisis is, what it will take to resolve it by developing a plan, and successfully resolving the crisis peacefully. Sometimes dealing with suicidal/mentally unstable persons is a challenge and will require some crisis negotiation skills. If the subject is armed with any type of deadly weapon(s), they will need to drop the weapon(s) and have them move away from them before any type of physical restraint is used.

## **FRISK/SEARCH:**

Once the individual is compliant, a team member should handcuff the subject appropriately, including double locked, always being prepared for any signs of resistance/struggle. A quick “terry frisk” should be performed to ensure no further weapons are on their person. The subject should be escorted back to a law enforcement vehicle where a complete search should be completed. If the subject needs any medical treatment, medical responders should be requested from dispatch. If the subject is being placed in protective custody officer should fill out the “Baker Act” or “Marchman Act” form.

*Please note: depending on the scenario, the Judge may or may not provide these forms. If the form is not provided, then the team may be asked to explain to the judge why they are completing the form by advising the Judge.*

## **TRANSPORT:**

A team member should radio dispatch they are transporting subject to either jail for a criminal offense or to a treatment facility under protective custody.

**DEDUCTIONS:**

Team is unable to successfully resolve crisis to a peaceful resolution, team escalates crisis into a deadly force confrontation/suicide by cop, or team member is shot by suspect or by another explorer.