

	Abilene Police Department Operating Procedures		
	Subject: <i>Interagency Medical Transport Policy</i>	Issued: <i>07/07/2022</i>	TBP:

Medical Transport Policy

It is the policy of the Department to safely interact with persons requiring medical assistance in the performance of law enforcement and public assistance duties. It is the goal of the Department to conduct safe operations with fire and medical responders, while ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens are upheld. The Department prioritizes life-threatening medical needs ahead of enforcement action.

Assisting Agencies

In the event law enforcement assistance is required, fire or medical personnel should notify Communications, who may dispatch law enforcement accordingly. Caution should be exercised while interacting with persons who are injured or requiring medical services.

Officers may be summoned to assist medical personnel for non-emergency assistance when handling cooperative patients who may have a firearm in their possession.

Regardless of a subject's capacity, they should be asked for consent to search any property or bags within their immediate area to ensure weapons are not transported in a medical transport vehicle.

If a weapon is located, the weapon may be taken by the Department for safekeeping with the consent of the citizen.

In the event fire or medical personnel require emergency police response, they should notify Communications that they need "immediate police assistance" and advise Communications of the nature of the assistance needed.

If an individual refuses medical services, police personnel shall not become involved. If an immediate threat to medical personnel is perceived, officers shall intervene. Once the threat has been addressed and the conflict no longer exists, the Department shall end its involvement.

Ambulance personnel may request an officer to accompany staff to the hospital. The officer's role is to maintain the safety of the medical personnel and prevent an assault.

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Prisoner Transport (Non-Custodial)

In the event an officer has an individual in custody who requires immediate advanced medical care, the arresting officer(s) shall consult with a supervisor to determine whether to keep the individual in custody.

Individuals may be released or held in custody depending on many factors.

- A. Individuals contacted for non-criminal issues or non-violent misdemeanor offenses may be released to ambulance personnel.
- B. Individuals contacted for a violent misdemeanor (except family violence offenses), whose identity is known and the threat is no longer active, may be released to ambulance personnel.
- C. Individuals contacted for a non-violent felony, whose identity is known and an immediate arrest is not necessary, may be released to ambulance personnel.
- D. In the event police personnel are requested to ride in the ambulance, they shall not authorize the use of chemical restraints by ambulance personnel.

Prisoner Transport (Custodial)

- A. If an individual is arrested for a violent felony, an officer shall ride in the ambulance with the prisoner. Fire personnel should also ride in the ambulance to assist. Officers shall not authorize chemical restraints to be used while a prisoner is in their custody at any time during transport to a medical facility.
- B. The officer shall ensure the prisoner is restrained, rendering chemical restraint unnecessary.

Whenever an officer is tasked to ride in an ambulance, a secondary officer shall follow the primary officer to the medical facility for both safety and to retrieve the primary officer and return them to their patrol unit.