

GENERAL ORDER 1.3.4

Adult & Juvenile Referrals

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: 1.3.1

SUMMARY

Establishes criteria for referring an adult or juvenile to other agencies or organizations.

DISCUSSION

Police Officers contact many persons who need assistance by a referral to another law enforcement or social service organization. It is important to recognize these circumstances and the types of assistance available.

POLICY

I

During each call for service, Department members must determine if they are dealing with a crime. If no crime is involved, the member should still attempt to resolve the problem. Many times a member can provide information or a referral that may resolve the situation.

II

A call for service may require officer involvement to protect a person from himself or others. Examples of these are noncriminal detoxifications, police mental holds, and child welfare custodies.

It is important to direct or release the person to the proper agency or authority so that the problems may be resolved. Specific guidelines for noncriminal custodies will be covered by the General Order on Arrests ([1.3.1](#)).

III

There are other government agencies which specialize in certain types of crimes and can most efficiently resolve these activities. Examples of this type of crime include consumer fraud, large scale white collar crime, and interstate or international criminal conspiracies. Although the initial investigation may begin at an agency level, it is Department policy to use State, Federal and other agencies or authorities which may more efficiently investigate and prosecute those incidents.

IV

Springfield police personnel will have access to a directory of social agencies and law enforcement organizations or authorities. This directory shall be located in the Records area and will be kept current. It shall be reviewed annually for any changes. The Police Office Supervisor shall be responsible for the maintenance of the list.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police