

TITLE <b>INMATE DEATH OR SUICIDE</b>		POLICY NUMBER <b>6.6</b>	
DISTRIBUTION <b>JAIL OPERATIONS DIVISION</b>		EFFECTIVE DATE <b>11-1-01</b>	PAGE OF <b>1 3</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW AMEND RESCINDS	NUMBER <b>N/A</b>	SOURCE <b>Georgia Jail Standards</b>	APPLICABLE STANDARD NUMBER <b>5.05,14.17,21.09,23.23,23.29,24.01, 24.09,24.16</b>
APPROVED BY  <b>Sheriff Benny Deloach</b>			DATE

## I. POLICY

In the event of an inmate's attempted suicide or death, facility staff are to provide first aid, assist emergency medical personnel, preserve the scene, and assist in the subsequent investigation.

## II. PROCEDURES

- A. In the event a detention officer discovers an inmate who appears dead or has made a physical attempt to commit suicide, the detention officer is to immediately call for assistance and provide first aid in accordance with Policy 5-5. Security procedures in effect for entrance into the cell area are to be observed.
- B. At the earliest opportunity, the dispatcher is to notify the Sheriff and facility administrator of the incident and its status.
- C. The detention staff are to preserve the incident scene to ensure that the affected area is not tainted nor disturbed. Medical personnel are not to be prevented from providing the necessary medical treatment. Any alterations made to the scene by medical personnel are to be described in the incident report. Detention staff are to assist medical personnel in providing emergency medical services.
- D. As soon as reasonably possible the Sheriff is to request an **outside law enforcement agency** to conduct an investigation of the incident in accordance with Policy 6-1. The Appling County Sheriff's Office is also to conduct an investigation of the incident for administrative purposes.

- E. Officers from the responding law enforcement agency shall have jurisdiction over the scene of the death. In the event the medical examiner arrives, he is to work with the investigating officers in collecting evidence and investigating the incident.
- When the inmate is pronounced dead by a medical doctor at the scene, the coroner is to be notified. If death is apparent and medical personnel are not on the scene, the coroner is to be notified.
- G. All personal property of the inmate not taken by law enforcement officers as part of the investigation is to be held and turned over to the next of kin. A receipt for the property is to be placed in the inmate's file.
- H. The facility Jail Administrator is to personally notify the inmate's immediate family of the inmate's death.
- I. In the event the inmate's family lives in another jurisdiction the Jail Administrator is to request the police or Sheriff's department in that jurisdiction to personally notify the family of the inmate's death.
- J. If the inmate was being held for another agency, the Jail Administrator is to inform the Sheriff or Chief of Police of the other agency of the incident.
- K. If necessary, the Sheriff or Chief of Police of the other agency is to be informed of the facts of the case.
- L. When the body is removed, the medical examiner is to perform a post mortem examination or autopsy and prepare a written report of his findings.
- M. Facility staff members participating in the incident are to complete a written report including:
1. Inmate's Name
  2. Date of Birth
  3. Social Security Number
  4. Location of death
  5. Time Found
  6. Last Time Checked

7. Narrative describing the incident and actions taken.
- N. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigating agency is to submit a copy of the report and its findings to the Sheriff or Chief of Police.
  - O. If the inmate was waiting to be picked up by the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Jail Administrator is to notify the Department of the inmate's death.
  - P. If there are any holds or detainees on the inmate, the Jail Administrator is to notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies.