

**SUBJECT:** HANDLING OF THE MENTALLY ILL**SECTION:** 302.18**REVISED:** FEBRUARY 8, 2008**PAGE(S):** 1

---

## PURPOSE

To facilitate the proper handling and care of mentally ill patients.

---

## DEFINITION

“Mentally ill individual” means an individual having an illness which substantially impairs the capacity of the person to use self control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of his/her affairs and social relations and includes lunacy, unsoundness of mind, insanity, and also, cases in which such lessening of capacity for control is caused by such excessive addiction to narcotics, sedatives, alcohol, or stimulants as to make it necessary for such person to be under treatment, care, supervision, guidance, or control. (ORC 5122.01)

---

## PROCEDURE

- A. If the person is a cooperative/non-violent mentally ill person and no need for immediate medical condition exists, he/she should be transported by the police department to University Hospital Emergency Department.
- B. If the person is a violent mentally ill person; a non-voluntary person; and/or requires medical attention, he/she should be transported by EMS, and should be accompanied by law enforcement officer, to University Hospital.
- C. If the patient is under arrest and handcuffs are applied by law enforcement officers:

The patient will not be cuffed to the stretcher and a law enforcement officer shall accompany the patient in the ambulance, if the handcuffs are to remain applied.

- D. It will be up to the lead paramedic and police supervisor to determine the best mode of transportation for the officer if the patient is non-violent, and not restrained with handcuffs (should the officer ride in the ambulance or follow in his/her vehicle).
- E. The law enforcement officer shall conduct a pat down search of the patient in the presence of EMS personnel prior to transport.
- F. Review Board: a panel is hereby established to review transportation and mental health issues involving the Reading Police and Fire Departments. This panel shall consist of two (2) Reading Police Officers and two (2) Reading Fire Department personnel. The panel shall meet on a periodic basis to recommend any needed changes/updates to this policy.