
INTAKE HEALTH CARE SCREENING

902.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a medical screening process for newly booked inmates so that medical, mental health and dental issues are properly identified and addressed, and to obtain a medical clearance when necessary.

902.2 POLICY

A Health Care Screening form will be completed for all inmates upon arrival at the intake area to ensure that existing, emergent and urgent health care, disability, dental, and mental health needs are identified, risks are assessed and inmates with contagious and communicable diseases are properly classified and housed for their health and the health of the general population (15 CCR 1051; 15 CCR 1206.5(a); 15 CCR 1207).

902.3 OVERVIEW OF THE SHASTA COUNTY JAIL INTAKE PROCESS

- A. The jail's intake process is comprised of three elements; Intake Processing; Intake processing involves several interrelated functions including the following, pre-detention medical evaluation, intake and custody screening, fingerprinting, and release. (See Policies 902, 501)
- B. The Booking function. (See Policies 600, 501))
- C. Intake Classification, preparation for housing, searches, and movement to housing (See Policy 600)

902.3.1 PRE-DETENTION MEDICAL EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION

Under certain circumstances an arrestee brought to the Jail by an arresting agency will require evaluation and/or treatment at an emergency room prior to admission to the Jail. The purpose of this policy is to prevent in-custody, life-threatening incidents and/or deaths and will assist the Sheriff's Office, the County of Shasta, and all arresting agencies in mitigating potential litigation derived from medical concerns, untreated injuries, or even death.

902.3.1.1 ARRESTEES WITH SERIOUS HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS: If for any reason (injury, medical concerns, mental health concerns) intake custody staff and Jail Medical staff decide that an arrestee requires medical attention/evaluation at an Emergency Room (ER) before being accepted at the jail, they will communicate with the ER to discuss treatment that would assist the arrestee in being sufficiently cleared for booking at the Main Jail Facility. When appropriate, the arresting agency will be instructed to transport the inmate to the ER for evaluation before accepting the inmate for booking.

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902.3.1.2 ARRESTEES WHO HAVE BEEN secured or otherwise leg restrained in such a fashion in a transport vehicle where the prisoner is unable to walk for any length of time, must be transported to the local hospital emergency room for medical clearance prior to being booked at the jail. The Shasta County Sheriff's Office Custody Division may accept those arrestees into the jail for booking and processing once medically cleared for other injuries, and/or medical concerns.

902.3.1.3 ARRESTEES WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED PRIOR TO OR DURING ARREST. The arresting agency officer shall provide supplemental information at the initial intake process if, during the arrest, there was an incident such as: traffic collision, drug/alcohol overdose or use, unconsciousness, baton strike, K-9 bite, OC or chemical agent used, Taser or similar electronic device use, or any traumatic injury or medical concern, officer-involved or not. Intake officers and Medical staff will inquire concerning the length of time the arrestee was secured or otherwise leg restrained in such a fashion in a transport vehicle where the prisoner was unable to walk or any other incident that could possibly affect the arrestee's medical condition, such as a struggle/fight, foot pursuit, or physical exertion. It is the arresting officer's responsibility to disclose known information. When appropriate, the arresting agency will be instructed to transport the inmate to the ER for evaluation before accepting the inmate for booking.

902.3.1.4 ARRESTEES WITH OBVIOUS INJURIES. In the case of an obvious injury or other medical problem, intake officers and facility medical staff will make a determination before the booking is accepted. This includes but is not be limited to, unconscious individuals, even if apparently intoxicated, and situations where a large amount of dried blood is present.

902.3.1.5 ARRESTEES WHO APPEAR TO BE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED. In the case of developmentally disabled intakes, facility medical staff will make a determination before the booking is accepted. (Reference 1057 - Guidelines to Minimum Standards).

902.3.1.6 A DETERMINATOF UNSUITABILITY FOR BOOKING SHALL BE FINAL. A medical determination of unsuitability for booking shall be final. In these situations the arresting officer will be referred to outside medical services for treatment until such time as the arrestee can be medically cleared for booking.

902.4 INTAKE HEALTH CARE SCREENING

An intake health care screening form shall be completed by correction officers for all bookings, prior to their entry into the search sally port.

902.4.1 TRAINING:

Officers who perform this function will be trained by the Jail's health care provider.

902.4.2 FORM UTILIZED:

The "Shasta County Correctional Facility Medical Pre-Screening" form shall be utilized for the intake health care screen. The form serves several purposes, including alerting medical staff and jail classification about an inmate's medical, mental health, dental, or disability needs; providing

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information relevant to an inmate's classification needs, and to help ensure equal access to programs and services for inmates who are disabled.

902.4.3 INTAKE OFFICER HEALTH CARE SCREENING RESPONSIBILITIES:

The health care intake process is designed to protect the incoming inmate and to facilitate appropriate health care services and classification. As indicated in the Shasta County Correctional Facility Medical Pre-Screening form, the primary responsibilities of the officer conducting the intake health care screen are as follows:

1. Carefully observe the incoming inmate, noting his or her physical and mental condition, as well as his or her conduct (See Officer Observations, items 1-6).
2. Ask the incoming inmate questions relating to his or her medical, disability and mental health condition. Note: some questions may require a follow-up, and in other circumstances it may be helpful to engage the inmate in conversation in order to determine the true extent of his or her problems. Some questions may be considered private, or even embarrassing; therefore, it is important that the intake officer conducts himself/herself in a professional and courteous manner at all times. (See Questions 1 – 16).
3. Inquire about circumstances of the inmate's arrest, and whether force was used against him or her, facts that may prove relevant concerning needed medical care and classification decisions (See Arrest Information).
4. Provide the inmate with basic information concerning the sick call process. (See "Sick Call procedures explained...").
5. Exercise good judgement. If, during the health care intake process or at the conclusion, an officer believes, based on observation and/or the responses to questions, that a facility nurse should be contacted before booking the inmate, he or she should note on the Pre-Screening form that medical staff were called and take immediate steps to accomplish the call. This is especially important if the officer believes that an inmate has a medical problem, mental health problem, or a disability, require an accommodation for a disability, lead to their harm, or create serious discomfort if not evaluated by medical personnel in a timely manner.

902.5 INMATES WHO MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION DURING THE HEALTH CARE SCREENING PROCESS.

902.5.1 MENTALLY DISABLED INMATES

Mentally ill inmates are often incarcerated due to the fact that there is an insufficient number of mental health facilities to adequately deal with their needs. These individuals pose challenges to custody staff. One challenge is to identify their needs as well as ensure the safety of staff, other inmates, and the mentally ill persons. All new intakes will be screened during the intake process for potential mental disorders. This screening process includes both an assessment and visual observations. Look for any history or trait of mental illness, including suicidal behavior, and use of medication for psychiatric treatment.

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Any inmate exhibiting signs of a mental illness are to be referred to health services staff for further evaluation. Classification will review potential inmates for separation to protect the safety of the inmate or others. If a Physician's opinion is not readily available, an inmate shall be considered to be mentally ill if he or she appears to be a danger to themselves or others or appears gravely disabled. Follow up treatment, either on site, or offsite, should be considered and a medical opinion should be obtained as soon as possible. In some cases, a safety cell placement may be appropriate. Refer to safety cell policy. A physician's opinion shall be secured within 24 hours of identification of a potential mental disorder or at the next daily sick call.

902.5.2 BEHAVIORAL CRISIS IDENTIFICATION

The facility administrator, in cooperation with the responsible physician, shall develop written policies and procedures to identify and evaluate all incarcerated people who may be in behavioral crisis. Evaluation of behavioral crisis may include telehealth. If an evaluation from medical or mental health staff is not readily available, an incarcerated person shall be considered in behavioral crisis for the purpose of this section if they appears to be a danger to themselves or others or appears gravely disabled. An evaluation from medical or mental health staff shall be secured within 24 hours of identification or at the next daily sick call, whichever is earliest. Separation may be used if necessary, to protect the safety of the person in crisis or others.

902.5.3 DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INMATES

All intakes are to be evaluated for developmental disabilities at the time of initial screening and booking. Custody staff becoming aware of an intake or inmate with developmental disabilities shall notify health services staff as soon as possible. Health services will further evaluate the inmate believed to suffer from developmental disabilities and request the need for special care or housing. This decision should be made in conjunction with custody staff and the Watch Commander. Health services and/or custody staff, are to contact Far Northern Regional Center at 530-222-4791 within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, notifying them of the developmentally disabled inmate and for referral. The following are indications that an individual suffers a developmental disability: mental retardation (IQ below 70); Cerebral Palsy; Epilepsy; Autism; Neurological impairment; or a combination of disabilities.

902.5.4 COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADA

It is the policy of the Shasta County Jail (SCJ) not to discriminate against any person protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the provision of services, programs and activities (including the Alternative Custody Program). All intakes are to be evaluated for physical or other disabilities at the time of initial screening and booking. Custody staff becoming aware of an inmate who may have a disability or a mobility impairment, even if the inmate is not able to or does not articulate his or her problem, should refer the inmate to medical staff as soon as possible. Custody staff responsible for intake health care screening should familiarize themselves with Policy 906, Jewett v. County of Shasta Compliance Program.