


POLICY 501.8	ESCAPE FROM POLICE CUSTODY	
	REVISED: 2/98, 11/01, 2/03, 08/11, 04/12, 01/14, 10/20	RELATED POLICIES: 501.1, 501.2, 501.3, 501.4, 501.5, 501.6, 501.7, 501.9, 501.10
	CFA STANDARDS: 21.06, 22.11	REVIEWED: AS NEEDED

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and responsibilities in the event that a prisoner, arrestee or detainee escapes police custody before, after or during transport.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Transporting/Custodial Officer

The transporting/custodial officer shall:

- a. immediately advise the dispatcher/supervisor of the escape, and
- b. give a complete BOLO including:
 - (1). a full physical description (height, weight, age, sex, race, hair and eye color, clothing, hair length and any distinguishing characteristics),
 - (2). charge,
 - (3). direction of travel,
 - (4). time delay, and
 - (5). whether the prisoner, arrestee or detainee is handcuffed or armed and if so with what.
- c. The transporting/custodial officer shall set up a perimeter designating positions for responding officers.
- d. If felony charges are applicable, the officer will coordinate with BSO Warrants at Regional Communications to have a “Temporary Felon” record entered into FCIC/NCIC pending the acquisition of a warrant at the direction of a supervisor.

2. Regional Dispatch

The dispatcher will immediately re-broadcast the BOLO on all available channels, notify a supervisor in the affected district, and assign responding officers to the identified perimeter points.

3. Supervisor

- a. The supervisor shall respond to the scene and take charge of the search for the escapee. The supervisor shall determine the number and type of units required for the search, have dispatch call out the necessary specialty units (i.e. K-9, SWAT, etc.) and notify command personnel as deemed appropriate. The supervisor shall determine what threat, if any, the escapee poses to the community and determine if evacuation or notification should be given to the public. This decision may be made at the command level.
- b. In the event the escapee is not recaptured, the supervisor shall make the decision as to when to discontinue the search.

C. OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Should the escape occur outside the Department's jurisdiction or should the escapee flee outside the Department's jurisdiction, the officer shall request the dispatcher to immediately notify the affected jurisdiction. The above procedure shall be followed and all search efforts shall be coordinated with such jurisdiction. Command of the search area shall be decided by the on scene Department supervisor and the affected jurisdiction's ranking member on scene. § 901.25, Florida Statute, pertaining to fresh pursuit and arrests made outside of the Department's jurisdiction may apply during the re-capture of the prisoner, arrestee or detainee.

D. REPORTING

1. The officer having charge of the prisoner, arrestee or detainee at the time of the escape shall complete an offense report detailing the occurrence. Any officer directly involved in the recapture shall complete a supplement to the offense report.
2. Upon recapture of the subject, the officer who had custody at the time of the escape shall amend the probable cause affidavit and complete an offense report adding any applicable charge(s). If that officer is unavailable (injury, off-duty, etc.), a supervisor will assign an officer to amend or complete a new probable cause affidavit/supplement report.
3. If the escapee is not recaptured, any officer having information pertaining to the escape, such as, where the escapee was last seen or any information learned from witnesses or other sources, shall complete a supplement detailing such information.
4. All reports will be forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for follow-up.