

What to Do If Your Loved One Has Been Arrested (rev.10/22/2019)

1. SUPPORT YOUR LOVED ONE.

Offer support if your loved one calls you about his/her arrest. Reassure him/her it's ok to share his or her medical and mental health information with Jail Medical Staff. Emphasize the importance to him/her of signing a Release of information (ROI) with medical/mental health staff, so that you can communicate effectively with them.

2. CUSTODY RECORDS /JAIL INFORMATION.

Contact the Sheriff Department's Jail Custody Records public line at: 805-681-4260. Ask for and keep a record of the following:

- a) CID (Custody ID) #
- b) Booking #
- c) Charges
- d) Court arraignment date or next hearing date, time, and room number.

With the CID # in hand, additional information is available at <https://www.sbsheriff.org/home/who-is-in-custody/>

See <https://www.sbsheriff.org/command-and-divisions/custody-operations/jail-operations-division/visit-an-inmate/> for Jail Visitor Information and Locations. Please note: Visitors must be listed on a visitation list pre-supplied by the inmate. Purses, bags, backpacks, and cell phones are not permitted in the visitor area. Call the jail prior to traveling for visitation to verify there is a visitation taking place.

On Saturdays, 9am -2 pm, and Sundays 12 – 4 pm, FamiliesAct staffs an Information Table outside the jail, providing information, and fielding questions by visitors and family members.

3. JAIL MEDICAL / MENTAL HEALTH.

IMPORTANT: If your loved one has a serious medical condition that requires immediate attention (such as diabetes, high blood pressure, seizures, heart problems, etc.), or if there is a serious, immediate risk of suicide, you may wish to call the Jail Shift Commander at (805) 681-4244. as soon as possible.

If the risk is not immediate, and/or you have additional information to convey by phone, you may wish to contact medical/mental health staff at (805) 681-5333. Please leave a detailed message if there is not an answer. If you believe your loved one may have a mental health condition that has not been diagnosed please e-mail Joanna.Gehrt@wellpath.us and ask for a Mental Health assessment with your rationale as to why you believe your loved one has an undiagnosed mental health disorder.

Fax or e-mail THE INMATE MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION FORM [link] to the attention of the Jail Health Services Administrator, at 805-681-4310 or to Amber.Nunes@wellpath.us.^{*} On your FAX cover page, indicate whether your relative has provided you with a written confidentiality waiver. If your relative has not previously done so, ask that he/she be asked to sign one while in jail. The jail health services staff is prohibited by law from giving anyone information about a client's status unless they have the client's consent, but the staff can receive information from relatives or friends without the client's consent.

To receive information regarding your loved one once a confidentiality waiver has been signed, contact the Health Services Administrator[Amber Nunes] or Assistant Health Services Administrator [Joanna Gehrt] directly at (805) 681-4211 or by e-mail at Amber.Nunes@wellpath.us or Joanna.Gehrt@wellpath.us.

Do NOT address any charges against your loved one. Medical and mental health information only!

4. LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

Assist your loved one, as needed, to obtain proper legal representation. Remind him/her of his/her right to have an attorney present if being questioned by police officers or detectives. Your loved one may have the choice of using an attorney in the Public Defender's Office or retaining a private attorney. Do not be afraid to use the Public Defender. Deputy public defenders often have knowledge of the "system" as it pertains to those who need mental health services. If your loved one does not have or cannot afford a private attorney, a public defender will be assigned at arraignment. If you have chosen to use the services of the Public Defender's Office, you may call 805-568-3470 for the name and contact information of the public defender assigned to the case.

5. JUSTICE ALLIANCE (FORENSIC TEAM).

Department of Behavioral Wellness teams in each county region provide linkage to mental health services for individuals with serious mental illness who have had interactions with the legal system including the courts, Probation, Public Defender, and District Attorney. The team provides linkage to an array of services, including outreach in the jail and assistance with post-release and discharge placements. Contact the Forensic Manager at 805-884-6887.

6. HELPING YOUR LOVED ONE PLAN FOR JAIL DISCHARGE.

Your loved one can request assistance with jail discharge planning by completing a "Program Request form." He/she can request this form at the jail. Alternatively, inmates are referred for discharge planning by Public Defenders, Probation Managers, the Behavioral Wellness Forensic Team, and/or Behavioral Wellness Case Managers. You may contact one of these persons. Please note whether your loved one can or cannot return to his/her previous living situation, and whether he/she needs placement at a Sober Living Home, Transitional/Long Term Housing, or Residential Treatment. Please note these placements are limited.

^{*}You may also wish to fax up-to-date Medical/Mental Health Information from Family Member or Other Concerned Party.