Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office
Behavioral Sciences Unit
911 Checklist

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If your family member is in crisis and is a danger to themselves or others, Call 911

Hold this list in your hand when you call 911, so you can read from it.

Give the dispatcher the following information:

☐ Address to which the Peace Officer should respond

☐ Your name and phone number

☐ Nature of the crisis (Why you need law enforcement)

☐ Name of your family member in crisis

☐ Age of family member

☐ Height & weight of family member

☐ Clothing description of family member

☐ Prior or current violent behavior

☐ Weapons or access to weapons

☐ Current medications (On or Off?)

☐ Drug or alcohol use (current or past)

☐ CURRENT location of family member

☐ Triggers (what upsets them?)

☐ State what has helped in previous Law Enforcement contacts

☐ Identify other persons in the residence or at the location

☐ Diagnosis (Mental Health and/or Medical)

IMPORTANT: You are asking a stranger to come into your home to resolve a crisis. They will only have the information that you provide to them. It is a good practice to gather as much of this information as possible before a crisis occurs.

THE Law Enforcement RESPONSE:

What to expect…

Who will respond to your crisis?

- The 911 operator will dispatch uniformed deputies to your location.
- Deputies will detain your family member, which may include handcuffing and is for the safety of everyone, including your family member.
- Officers will conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether a crime occurred.
- Officers will conduct a preliminary mental health investigation to determine whether your family member is a danger to self, danger to other(s), or gravely disabled due to a mental illness (CA WIC §5150).
- Your statements and historical information are an important part of the mental health investigation (CA WIC §5150.05).
- Officers will inquire about any firearms or other deadly weapons, and in most cases will seize them for safe-keeping (pursuant to CA WIC §8102).
- Officers will notify the Crisis Intervention Team and a CIT unit (deputy & clinician) will be dispatched if available.
- If your family member is an adult, the officers and/or the CIT unit cannot disclose information about him/her due to medical records-related privacy laws.

NON-EMERGENCY
Santa Barbara County
Department of Behavioral Wellness
ACCESS – 1-888-868-1649
National Alliance on Mental Illness
NAMI 1-805-884-8440 x3206
https://www.namisantabarbara.org/