

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title		
District of Columbia Stabilization Center		
Topic	Series	Number
PCA	501	03
Effective Date		
November 3, 2023		
Replaces:		
GO-PCA-501.03 (Handling intoxicated Persons), Effective Date February 25, 2003		
Rescinds:		
TT-08-034-09 (Detox Center Location Change)		

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I. PURPOSE

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) recognizes that public intoxication is a public health issue. The policy of MPD is that an intoxicated individual is normally afforded the same consideration as any individual suffering from an illness. The purpose of this general order is to provide procedures for handling calls for service and other interactions with intoxicated individuals who may be eligible for the services at the District of Columbia Stabilization Center (DCSC), which will be offered for intoxicated individuals through a phased approach beginning at the First District. Members will be notified at each phase when other districts are incorporated.

II. PROCEDURES

A. General

1. Some intoxicated individuals endanger the safety of themselves, other persons, or property. Examples of intoxicated individuals that exhibit the level of danger that could justify an intoxication arrest include: intoxicated individuals staggering and falling down in on-coming traffic; intoxicated individuals caring for a child, where their condition and state of mind could cause harm or danger to the child.
2. When a member has probable cause that an individual is in violation of [DC Official Code § 25 -1001 \(Drinking of alcoholic beverage in public place prohibited; intoxication prohibited\)](#), the member shall transport the individual to the DCSC in lieu of arrest. This may include incidents where members also have probable cause to believe the subject has committed one or more of the offenses listed in Attachment A (DCSC Eligible Charges).
3. Intoxicated individuals **shall not** be transported to DCSC if they are under arrest for offenses other than those specified in [DC Official Code § 25-1001](#), combative or violent, or require immediate medical attention or

emergency hospitalization for mental observation. Intoxicated individuals endangering the safety of other persons or property may be placed under arrest and processed as any other prisoner, when appropriate.

4. Intoxicated individuals reasonably believed to have a mental health condition and pose a danger or threat of danger to themselves shall be assisted pursuant to [GO-OPS-308.04 \(Interacting with Mental Health Consumers\)](#).
5. In the event that intoxicated individuals require immediate medical attention, members shall notify the dispatcher to request an ambulance to respond and transport them to the hospital for a medical evaluation.

B. Arrest and Transport

1. Members shall handcuff, search, and transport any intoxicated individual taken into custody in the District of Columbia in accordance with [GO-PCA-502.01 \(Transportation and Searches of Prisoners\)](#).
2. Members shall conduct a Washington Area Law Enforcement System (WALES)/National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check for any outstanding warrants or missing person reports.
3. Small amounts of personal property may be taken to DCSC and turned over to staff members. Members shall not transport personal property that has not been searched for weapons. Any recovered contraband shall be handled in accordance with [GO-SPT-601.01 \(Recording, Handling, and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department\)](#).
4. Upon arrival at the DCSC, members shall provide any requested information to the staff member taking charge of the intoxicated person, to include what the member witnessed, what is known about the intoxicated individual, where they were encountered, and which substances may have caused the intoxication, if known.
5. After transporting intoxicated persons to DCSC, transporting members shall notify the Teletype Unit of intoxicated individuals' identifying information and complete a records management system (RMS) report for "Transport to DCSC" pursuant to [GO-OPS-304.10 \(Field Contacts, Stops, and Protective Pat Downs\)](#).

III. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: DCSC Eligible Charges



Pamela A. Smith
Acting Chief of Police

Attachment A
DCSC Eligible Charges

Offense Description	Statute Code
Disorderly Conduct	
Affray	22DC1301
Crowding, Obstructing, or Incommoding	22DC1307(A)
Disorderly Conduct - Creating Fear	22DC1321(A)(1)
Disorderly Conduct - Disrupt Gathering	22DC1321B
Disorderly Conduct - Disrupting a Public Building	22DC1321(C-1)
Disorderly Conduct - Disrupting a Public Conveyance	22DC1321(C)
Disorderly Conduct - Disrupting Noise at Night	22DC1321(D)
Disorderly Conduct - Fighting Words	22DC1321(A)(3)
Disorderly Conduct - Jostling	22DC1321(G)
Disorderly Conduct - Peeping	22DC1321(F)
Disorderly Conduct - Urinating or Defecating in Public	22DC1321(E)
Lewd, Indecent, or Obscene Acts (Excluding Sexual Proposal to Minor)	22DC1312
Panhandling	22DC2302 et al.
Temporary Abode	24DCMR121.1
Tent / Temporary Abode Regulation Violation	24DCMR121, 100.6
Throwing Stones or Missiles	22DC1309
Liquor Law Violations	
Alcohol Beverage Control Act Violation	25DC201-211
Alcoholic Beverages And Narcotics (Drunkenness)	38RUSC1.218a7
Possession of Open Container of Alcohol/Public Intoxication	25DC1001(A)
Consumption of Marijuana in Public Space Prohibited; Impairment Prohibited	
Consumption of Marijuana in Public Space Prohibited; Impairment Prohibited	48DC911.01
Possession of a Controlled Substance - Misdemeanor	48DC904.01D
Prostitution	
Sexual Solicitation	22DC2701
Theft	
Shoplifting	22DC3213
Taking Property without Right	22DC3216
Theft Second Degree - Misdemeanor	22DC3211
Trafficking/Receiving Stolen Property	
Receiving Stolen Property (less than \$1000)	22DC3232
Unlawful Entry	
Unlawful Entry	22DC3302