



# POLICE RESPONSE TO PERSONS WHO ARE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED OR HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS OR A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY LE-013

Effective Date: 2000/09/15  
Amended: 2014/02/19

## Policy Statement

*It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board that the requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in his/her administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.*

### 1. Subject

The guiding principles under which the Chief of Police is to establish procedures and processes with respect to police response to persons who are emotionally disturbed or have a mental illness or a developmental disability.

### 2. Policy Requirements

It is the policy of the Board with respect to police response to persons who are emotionally disturbed or have a mental illness or a developmental disability the Chief of Police shall:

- (a) Ensure complete compliance with legislative and constitutional requirements, and recognized legal principles;
- (b) Ensure that members act with full respect for human dignity and according to professional standards of skill, integrity and accountability;
- (c) Maintain both officer and public safety as a priority;
- (d) Establish procedures and processes that address the police response to persons who are emotionally disturbed or have a mental illness or a developmental disability;
- (e) Provide training and education to members to increase awareness of mental health issues;
- (f) Ensure that the police services' skills and development and learning plan address the training and sharing of information with officers, communications operators/dispatchers and supervisors on:
  - a. Local protocols;
  - b. Conflict resolution and use of force in situations involving persons who may be emotionally disturbed, or may have a mental illness or developmental disability;
- (g) Maintain relationships with external authorities, such as mental health care professionals, local community mental health agencies and their consumers and supports, government agencies, municipal officials to address service issues relating to persons who have a mental illness or developmental disability; and

- (h) Regularly review procedures on police response to persons who are emotionally disturbed or have a mental illness or a developmental disability to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings, and amendments to related legislation.

### **3. Measurement Methods/Systems**

The Chief of Police shall regularly assess the effectiveness of existing protocols, community partnerships, training and education to ensure compliance with Board policy and legislative requirements.

### **4. Reporting**

The Chief of Police shall report on an exception basis. This applies to those circumstances where police response to persons who are emotionally disturbed or have a mental illness or a developmental disability has resulted in an “exceptional” circumstance, or a circumstance which may be detrimental to the police service; and/or has resulted in significant issues of potential liability to the Board and/or the police service.

As part of a separate Annual Report on Adequacy Regulation, the Chief of Police shall report on compliance with this section of the policy.

### **5. Authority/Legislative Reference**

Ontario Regulation 03/99, Section 13(1)(g) and 29  
Ontario Human Rights Code  
Mental Health Act  
Board Minute #191/00  
Board Minute #18/14

### **6. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive**

I-A-603(F) Mental Health Policy