

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL
POLICY

SUBJECT: INSTITUTION POLICE AUTHORITY AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

ANNUAL REVIEW MONTH: August

RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW: Police Captain

LAST REVISION DATE: March 2009

Section 37-1-21 Section (a) (4) of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated provides the authority to appoint police officers for institutions and authorizes them, while on the grounds or in the buildings of the respective institutions, to make arrests with the same authority, power, privilege and duties as the sheriffs of the respective counties in which such facilities or institutions are situated.

The police Captain will maintain a close working relationship with other law enforcement agencies and request their assistance in matters that warrant outside help or in those situations where there may be an area of overlapping jurisdiction. He/she will provide any assistance within his/her capability to other law enforcement agencies in the apprehension of a known law violator or in the investigation of an offense where it is suspected that employees of the hospital or clients may be involved or when the offense is believed to have been committed on the grounds of the hospital.

In those cases where a peace officer from another agency comes to the hospital to serve any type of legal documents, the officer should first contact the State Hospital Police Central State Hospital Precinct (SHPCSH). The police Captain will determine when it is necessary to have a SHPCSH police officer accompany the peace officer to the employee's/client's place of assignment. The police Captain will have the appropriate person in charge of the area notified when a peace officer has legal documents to serve, and will ask that a private area be provided for serving them on the employee/client. Should an outside agency peace officer come first to the employee's/client's assigned area, the person in charge will call the SHPCSH for assistance. The police Captain will determine if a SHPCSH officer should be dispatched to witness/assist in delivery of the legal documents to the employee/client.

When any person is apprehended for violation of a state law or city ordinance by the SHPCSH Police Department, the subject will be

released to the local sheriff or police department. This applies to clients of the hospital unless their clinical condition does not permit such release and this is documented by the attending physician in the medical record. The decision as to whether the hospital will bring criminal charges against a client will be made by the facility administrator after receiving input from the forensic team on the client's competence for trial and responsibility for the act.

Approved:

This policy has been approved by the CEO and CMO on 06/09.