

Behavior Counseling

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Title: **Behavior Counseling** Detention Division Version: 01.1.16

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this Policy is to establish standard procedures for conducting Behavior Counseling with restrained inmates for the purpose of addressing specific behavior issues in a professional, controlled environment within the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Detention Facilities.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

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| Assaultive Behavior | An intentional action that creates a threat of harmful or offensive contact. |
| Resistive Behavior | Intentional actions that physically counteract attempts to control, and which creates risk of bodily harm to the Deputy, inmate, and/or other person. |
| Verbal Threats | Statements that indicate an intention to carry out an assault. |
| Behavior Counseling | The process of removing an inmate from his / her cell in restraints for the purpose of addressing specific behavioral issues in a controlled environment. A behavior counseling may be conducted in any housing unit in the Detention Facilities. |

3.0 MANDATES

None

4.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Behavior counseling can be conducted in any unit/module of the detention division under the supervision of the area supervisor.
- B. A Behavior counseling can be conducted for the following reasons;
 - 1. Inmates disrespectful comments
 - 2. Inmates refusing to follow orders
 - 3. Threats to staff
 - 4. Challenging behavior
 - 5. Continued disturbances inside their cell or dayroom
 - 6. Inappropriate use of the emergency call system
- C. Mental Health Staff shall be consulted prior to the counseling when dealing with inmates assigned an Internal Behavioral Code (IBC) of C through E.
- D. Behavior counseling will only be conducted with an appropriate number of staff present based on the inmates classification taking into consideration the potential resistive behavior of the inmate.
- E. All behavior counseling will be documented in an incident report with the video of the incident attached.

5.0 PROCEDURES

- A. When a behavior counseling is warranted, staff shall notify the area sergeant prior to removing the inmate.
- B. Staff shall record the incident in its entirety. Whenever possible, include the inmates' behavior leading to the counseling.
- C. If at any point the inmate becomes resistive or a threat to the safety of staff, place the inmate on the ground in the prone position. Reasons to place the inmate in the prone position;
 - 1. Physically resistive behavior
 - 2. Verbal threats to assault staff
- D. If an inmate is placed in a prone position or if any physical or mechanical restraints are used, deputies should constantly re-evaluate the level of force used to determine if a lower level of force is warranted.

- E. If force was used, or an inmate complains of injury, contact medical staff immediately to examine the inmate and document in the incident report.
- F. Thoroughly document the incident in an incident report, attach the video and advise classification.

6.0 REVISION HISTORY

Version – 1.1.16 New Policy

