

**SONOMA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
JUVENILE HALL POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

SECTION: <i>Security Operations</i>	SUBJECT: <i>Hostage Situation</i>	PAGE: <i>1 of 1</i>	IDENTIFIER: <i>3.4.28</i>
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**POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of Sonoma County Juvenile Hall that staff, residents, or visitors will not be recognized as hostages for bargaining purposes. The Juvenile Hall is, however, committed to doing all that is reasonable to end any hostage situation without injury to those involved.

**PROCEDURES**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. As part of the “No Hostage Negotiation” policy:
- B. The policy is meant to discourage attempts at taking hostages as well as stating that hostage takers will not be allowed to escape with hostages. The best way to handle hostage situations is to prevent them. When responding to an escape attempt or resident fight/disturbance, staff will assess the situation first.

**2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- A. The primary objective of this policy is to save lives and prevent or minimize injury to residents, staff, visitors, or hostage takers and to ensure safety for the largest number of people in the shortest amount of time.

**3. HOSTAGE MANAGEMENT**

- A. The philosophy of hostage management is to save lives. This includes innocent bystanders (residents, visitors, etc.), hostages, the staff, outside agencies assisting with the situation, and hostage takers.

**REPLACEMENT HISTORY**

Revised:

APPROVED BY:

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DAVID M. KOCH, Chief Probation Officer