

- **Persons / related incidents under the Mental Health Act** -- Normally when we are dispatched to these types of incidents, we apprehend for issues under Section 17 -- Danger to themselves or others, and transport them to the nearest Hospital for a Doctor to review for a Form 1 submission. For our part, we have to remember that these persons are **not offenders** they are patients. We are not medical providers, nor are we trained or equipped as a medical provider. So if they, being the Doctor at the hospital, request a police escort as outlined in the Act, this is still a medical transport. This means that in most cases it is done by the Ambulance. Ambulance may ask us to accompany them or follow them to the **nearest designated Medical Facility**, which we will do. The escort should be done either by: following the ambulance or one member in the ambulance, and another following in the police vehicle, to ensure officer safety and communication. These details should be worked out prior to leaving the Hospital. Should the Hospital admit the patient on the strength of the Form 1 this is not an escort anymore; it is now a Hospital Security issue. This is something the Hospital must supply, which now means a paid duty, if they want us the police, to perform this assignment.
- The second issue is a violent offender needing medical attention. If the person needs to be in custody and remain in custody, then this is our responsibility to provide security on the prisoner. If however there is no evidentiary requirement, or judicial requirement to maintain custody, then again this is a medical issue and a Hospital security issue. Again a paid duty.

\*\* Note -- Remember it is one thing to transport someone in immediate medical need to the closest medical facility. It is another issue altogether to transport a medical patient where other more suitable and appropriate means are available. In addition, we must also remember that we are responsible for the safety of the public. This means that there will be times and circumstances where we will have to adapt our response outside of this policy to ensure that everyone's safety is ensured.

\*\* Note – As a Region we would prefer to staff all of the Hospital Security identified issues with Paid Duty Officers. Should a situation arise were no local Detachment Members are available, and it will be sufficiently long enough to acquire paid duty, members from another detachment should be utilized, and every effort should be made to do so. As a Region we want our people on the road and in our communities as much as possible.