

## PURSUIITS/ARRESTS-FIELD

**AUTHORITY:** Administrative Directive

**RESCINDS:** Procedure Manual Item 2-1-003, dated 07/07/16

**FORMS:** None

**PURPOSE:** To set forth general guidelines for officers who find themselves in a circumstance in which they are considering the pursuit of a fleeing individual for the purposes of detention or arrest.

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. For purposes of this procedure, pursuits are strictly limited to probation employees in a peace officer position for the purpose of effecting a legitimate peace officer duty.
- B. Occasionally, during the course of their duties, peace officers will encounter situations where an individual will flee in order to avoid detention, arrest, or to escape custody. The officer may be placed in a situation where they feel it necessary to pursue that individual. Although arrests and detentions are important, there are other factors that must be taken into consideration prior to determining whether to initiate or continue efforts to pursue the individual.
- C. Each situation is based on the facts of the circumstances at that moment in time as perceived by the officer. When deciding to pursue or not, each officer must use their professional judgment to act by taking into consideration:
  - 1. Legal authority to pursue
  - 2. Circumstances under which the individual is fleeing
  - 3. Level of danger associated with the fleeing individual
  - 4. Level of danger associated with the surrounding area and/or environment
  - 5. Need to apprehend the fleeing individual based on the danger to the community if not apprehended
  - 6. Officer's knowledge, experiences, training (formal and informal), and expertise to perform a pursuit
- D. If an officer determines in their professional judgment it is reasonably safe to pursue a fleeing individual AND there is a reasonable need to pursue, the officer may pursue under the following guidelines.
  - 1. There is no expectation that an officer place himself/herself or others in jeopardy to pursue a fleeing individual.

2. If a pursuit is initiated, but circumstances change mid-pursuit that in the officer's professional judgment creates unsafe conditions to continue, unless as otherwise outlined below, the pursuit is to be immediately terminated.

## II. PROCEDURE

### A. Foot Pursuits

Generally, attempts to pursue a fleeing individual under the supervision or legal authority of the probation department is acceptable if it is reasonably safe to do so, provided the officer has appropriate probation or law enforcement assistance.

1. "Solo" foot pursuits are not permitted, absent exigent circumstances. The pursuit itself does not create exigency in and of itself.
2. Foot pursuits of individuals carrying deadly weapons are not permitted unless it is reasonably necessary to:
  - a. remain with or assist accompanying law enforcement personnel
  - b. to protect oneself
  - c. to protect the public from an imminent threat
3. Foot pursuits into dangerous areas, i.e., into/through traffic, across fences, barriers, through gang neighborhoods, are to be conducted only when it is reasonably safe to do so based on the officer's professional judgment.

### B. Vehicle Pursuits

1. Vehicle pursuits, in which the probation department employee is the driver, are prohibited.
2. In the event an officer is the passenger in a law enforcement vehicle during a pursuit, and/or once the pursuit terminates, the officer may assist law enforcement officer(s) as appropriate based on legal authority and probation policy and procedure.

### C. Communications

1. Officers attempting to pursue an individual should make radio communication to request assistance from probation or law enforcement immediately as needed.
2. In the event one officer identifies something that constitutes a deadly situation (to self or others), that officer should immediately communicate the situation to the others involved, at which time, the other officer(s) will discontinue their efforts to pursue unless in that officer's professional judgment it is reasonably necessary to:
  - a. remain with or assist accompanying law enforcement personnel

- b. to protect oneself
- c. to protect the public from an imminent threat

D. Following at a Safe Distance

Generally, an officer may follow, not pursue, an individual by foot or vehicle at a safe distance while remaining in compliance with probation policy and procedure, to maintain eye contact of the individual for the purposes of communicating the location to other probation or law enforcement officers until such time the individual is lawfully detained or arrested, **circumstances change** or it becomes unsafe to continue.

**REFERENCES:**

Procedures:	1-5-101	Vehicle Usage by Probation Employees
	1-5-402	Handcuffs - Assignment
	2-1-002	Transportation Security
Policies:	D-2	Use of Physical Restraint/Corporal Punishment
	D-4	Handcuffs
	D-5	Arrests / Temporary Detentions
	D-6	Transportation of Probationers and Custody Transportation

J. Fiore

**APPROVED BY:**