



REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY	Title: Interaction with Law Enforcement at a Crime Scene
	Section: Patient Care
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	Effective: December 6, 2023

INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AT A CRIME SCENE

I. PURPOSE

To define responsibilities of EMS personnel with patient assessment at a crime scene and interactions with law enforcement.

II. POLICY

- A. EMS and law enforcement are often dispatched together for incidents involving patients and criminal situations including suicide, accidental death or suspicious circumstances of a death.
- B. The role of law enforcement is to investigate the crime and preserve evidence.
- C. The role of EMS is to assess and treat the patient.

In circumstances where there is an active investigation, EMS should work with law enforcement to facilitate performing a patient assessment and any treatment indicated while maintaining the evidence at the scene.

- D. If law enforcement is not on the scene and safety of the EMS personnel is a concern, patient care and transport may be delayed until law enforcement can secure the scene. Initiate patient assessment and treatment per Region 11 EMS Protocols.
- E. Assess patients for traumatic injuries incompatible with life or traumatic arrest plus asystole per the Determination of Death/ Withholding of Resuscitative Measures Policy.
- F. Maintain evidence at the crime scene
 - 1. If circumstances require the alteration of the scene for patient assessment, inform law enforcement.
 - 2. Avoid unnecessary contact with physical objects at the scene.
 - 3. Anything carried onto the scene including bandages or packaging should be removed by EMS when leaving the scene. Do not remove anything else from the scene.
 - 4. If it is necessary to cut through the clothing of the patient, avoid cutting through tears, bullet holes, or other damaged or stained areas of clothing.
 - 5. Do not wash or clean the patient's hands or areas with bullet wounds.



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6. During exposure of the patient during assessment, expended bullets can be found in the clothing of the patient (especially when heavy winter clothing is worn). These items of evidence may be lost during evaluation or transportation. Any evidence should be turned over to law enforcement and documented on the patient care report.
 7. In hanging or asphyxiation cases, avoid cutting through or untying knots in the hanging device or other materials unless necessary to free the patient.
 8. In stabbing cases, leave any impaled object in place for both medical reasons and evidence collection.
- G. Document observations at the crime scene on the patient care report. Include name and star number or badge number of law enforcement personnel on scene.