

VILLAGE OF WALDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ONE MUNICIPAL SQUARE
WALDEN, NEW YORK 12586

Jeffry Holmes
Chief of Police

GENERAL ORDER

NO: 19.24

Issue Date: 06/01/2019	Effective Date: 06/01/2019
Revises:	CALEA:
Subject: Hope Not Handcuffs	
Distribution: All Personnel	STATE:
Reevaluation Date: 06/01/2021	Page: 1 of 3
Issuing Authority: Chief Jeffry Holmes	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers with guidelines for the Hope Not Handcuffs Program.

I. POLICY:

Any person who enters the police station and requests help with their addiction to opiates or other substance will be assisted and screened for the Hope Not Handcuffs Program. If such a person who has requested help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia (needles, etc.), they do not have to be criminally charged. This will be at the discretion of the Officer and/or Supervisor. The dispatcher and/or officer will notify the Supervisor that a potential Hope Not Handcuffs Program candidate is requesting help with their addiction.

This program specifically applies to persons who present themselves at the police station for help. If the initial contact is made on the street, officers will notify their Supervisor and a determination shall be made how to proceed.

The Village of Walden Police Department has partnered with "Hope not Handcuffs" for this program. "Hope not Handcuffs" will provide the "Angels". They will also provide an "Angel Bin" that will be secured at our station. The bin will contain everyday items such as toothpaste and warm clothes.

All officers having contact with anyone requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate, and understanding at all times.

II. PROCEDURES:

1. Any person who enters the police station and requests help with their addiction will be screened by a law enforcement officer for potential participation in the Hope Not Handcuffs Program.
2. The Dispatcher will create a blotter and also check the person via E- Justice for any warrants, order of protections, sex offenders, probation, parole, etc. If anything shows up, the Dispatcher will notify the Officer so information can be relied to the assigned Angel.
3. No questioning of the person will be undertaken in an effort to collect drug intelligence, determine the origins of any drugs relinquished by the person, or any other effort which may undermine the intended purpose of this program - namely to encourage persons to seek police assistance in getting help for their addiction without fear of arrest or police action.
4. Officer will contact the Hope Not Handcuffs Angel Coordinator by phone.
5. The Angel will be informed that an intake is occurring and they will be requested to respond to the Police Department. The Angel will ascertain an approximate estimated time of arrival and inform the officer. Approximately 30 minutes.
6. If an Angel is unable to respond to assist the person, the Officer will give the person the contact information for the Angel for future use. The person shall be instructed when the Angel will be available to assist.
7. Upon arrival of the Angel at the Police station, the Angel will meet with the officer who conducted the initial screening. The officer will provide a brief summary of the circumstances and provide the Angel with the intake form.
8. The Angel should ask the officer for the "Angel Bin." This bin contains guidelines, instructions and resources to assist the Angel in the performance of his/her duties. It also contains comfort items (blankets, water, snack items) for use by the Angel and program Participant.

9. The officer will introduce the Angel to the program Participant (by first name only) and transition the program Participant to the care of the Angel.
10. The Angel will assure the Participant that it is our goal to assist them in exploring treatment options and attempt to identify a program or facility which can assist them.
11. If at any time the Participant is noted to be in medical distress or appears to be physically ill, the Angel should notify a police officer so that EMS personnel can respond.
12. The Angel should provide appropriate support and encouragement to the program Participant consistent with the recommendations made in the Volunteer Angel “Tips” located in their binder.
13. Utilizing the Participant information contained on the Hope Not Handcuffs Intake Form and soliciting additional information from the program Participant as may be required, the Angel should verify with the program Participant that they are willing to accept help from a treatment facility.
14. The Angel should follow the procedures as outlined in the Step by Step Guide located in their binder.
15. If the Angel determines that the participant is unable to be placed after exhausting all possible methods, the Participant should not leave until a subsequent plan of help has been established. The Participant shall be afforded every courtesy to find them a safe place upon departure. This will be at the determination of the Angel.



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