

R.C.C.C. RIVER CITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/26/06
	ANNUAL REVIEW: Yes
SECTION: Security	DATE REVIEWED: 4/16/08
SUBJECT: Suicide Surveillance	FGB Approval Date:
DRC CBCF STANDARD: Facility Specific #5	
ACA STANDARD: N/A	PAGE <u>1</u> OF <u>6</u> PAGES

I. POLICY

The facility shall have a written policy and procedure which provides for the documented and increased surveillance at intervals of no more than twenty 20 minutes for those residents who become “suicidal”, assaultive, escape risks and actively mentally/emotionally disturbed.

II. PROCEDURES

River City Correctional Center (RCCC) has a written suicide prevention and intervention program that is reviewed and approved by a qualified medical or mental health professional. All staff with offender supervision responsibilities are trained in the implementation of the suicide prevention program.

RCCC provides appropriate supervision to residents who may be considered suicidal. RCCC will provide for documented and increased surveillance at intervals of no more than twenty (20) minutes for those residents who become “suicidal, assaultive, escape risks and/or actively mentally/emotionally disturbed.

RCCC has a written procedure/protocol for responding to suicide attempts by hanging.

- I. The following suicide prevention procedures shall be followed in cases of residents who appear to be “suicidal, assaultive, escape risks and/or actively mentally/emotionally disturbed.
 1. When an employee of RCCC receives information that a resident may be suicidal, they are to report this to the supervisor on duty.
 2. The supervisor will then communicate this information to the consulting Psychologist.
 3. Based on the information, the Psychologist will make a decision as to the appropriate level of supervision the resident will need.

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4. The Psychologist will utilize the Suicide Watch form to help identify symptoms that will assist in determining the appropriate level of supervision.

5. The levels of supervision include:

A. Close Supervision:

- 1) Requires the resident to sleep in the 1st floor dormitory with staff observance at a minimum of five (5) times each hour at random intervals with the longest interval not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 2.) Requires the removal of all dangerous objects in the vicinity of the resident.
- 3) Requires the resident to not travel outside of the Pod unescorted and only leaves the Pod for meals, recreation and medical reasons. (The resident basically remains in their regular routine with the above-mentioned conditions maintained).

B. Constant Supervision:

- 1) Requires the resident to sleep in the honor dorm, dayroom or group room under the constant visual supervision of staff. No fewer than two (2) staff are on the pod during a constant watch.
- 2) Requires constant staff supervision when not sleeping.
- 3) Requires the removal of all dangerous objects in the vicinity of the resident.
- 4) Requires the resident to not travel outside of the Pod unescorted and only leaves the Pod for meals, recreation

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and medical reasons. (The resident basically remains in their regular routine with the above-mentioned conditions maintained).

C. Emergency Supervision:

- 1) Requires the resident to suspend normal routine.
- 2) Requires the resident to be supervised by a minimum of two (2) staff members at all times.
- 3) Requires transport to University Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Service (PES).
- 4) The Suicide Watch form is to be completed by the staff member that witnessed and reported the behavior/problem.
- 5) The completed Suicide Watch form will be used to communicate symptoms to the Clinical Supervisor and Psychologist.
- 6) Once the appropriate level of supervision has been determined the supervisor will communicate this information immediately to the following RCCC staff members:
 - A. Executive Director or designee.
 - B. Nurse.
 - C. Resident Supervisor (RS) on the pod.
- 7) The supervisor communicates this information to the resident's Case Manager.
- 8) The RSIII will communicate this information to all Security Staff as soon as possible.

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- II. The decision for a resident on a suicide watch to change to a higher or lower degree of supervision or to have the suicide watch discontinued will be made only by the Psychologist or by an independently licensed mental health professional.
- III. If a resident has attempted suicide, the staff on the scene will initiate reasonable and appropriate life saving procedures and call 9-1-1 (See ACA Policy #4C-03).
1. If the suicide attempt is by hanging the following procedure shall be followed:
 - A. Check the scene for safety, then immediately attempt to remove pressure from the neck. One person should lift the victim while a second person attempts to release the tension on the victim's neck. Use the 9-1-1 tool as appropriate.
 - B. One person should stay with the victim and start CPR assessment (check for responsiveness and breathing) while the second person calls 9-1-1.
 - C. If you are alone, use other residents to help, if available.
 - D. If you are unable to relieve tension from the victim's neck, call 9-1-1 immediately.
 - E. Always protect the head and neck when lowering the victim.
 - F. When calling 9-1-1 remember, you must dial 9-1-1 or use the pre-programmed button.
 - G. Be prepared to communicate the following information to the 9-1-1 operator: address and location of the victim; nature of the problem; age, sex and condition of the victim (responsive – not responsive / breathing-not breathing); and telephone number you are calling from.

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- H. Immediately after calling 9-1-1, notify Central Control and the Security Supervisor of the situation.
 - I. Return to care for the victim.
 - J. Never assume the victim is dead. Open the airway, check for breathing and pulse and begin rescue breathing or CPR as appropriate.
 - K. Try to remember as many details as possible to assist the police in their investigation, which is required in these situations.
 - L. Once the scene is secure and care has been transferred to appropriate medical personnel, complete an incident report and notify the Executive Director or designee and Security Chief or designee.
 - M. In the event of a death, it is the responsibility of the Executive Director or designee to notify the victim's family.
- IV. All Clinical, Security and Medical staff will receive annual suicide assessment, prevention and intervention training and shall include but not be limited to the following:
1. Signs and symptoms of depression.
 2. Factors contributing to suicidal behavior or a potential suicide attempt.
 3. Assessment and identification of high-risk suicide residents and suicidal behavior.
 4. Elements of suicidal intervention and detection.
 5. Procedures related to an actual suicide attempt.
 6. Emergency 9-1-1 procedures, First Aid and CPR training.

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- V. The Deputy Director or designee initiates an annual review of this policy and procedures. The reviewing body shall include the Executive Director, Psychologist and Nursing Supervisor.

Approved by: _____	
Myron Fridman, Ph.D.	Revision Date: 2/3/05, 4/9/08 file: ACA#4C-16DRC#6.P&P

Approved by: _____	
John M. Baron Executive Director River City Correctional Center	Revision Date: 2/3/05, 4/9/08 file: ACA#4C-16DRC#6.P&P