



NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

7.04 Hope Initiative Program

Any person who enters the police station and requests help with their addiction to opiates will be immediately screened into the HOPE Initiative Program. If such a person requesting help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia – they will not be charged. Any officer having contact with anyone entering the Nashville Police Department and requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times. The officer will immediately notify the Patrol Commander that a potential HOPE Initiative intake is requesting help with their addiction.

Purpose

This policy defines the HOPE Initiative Program within the Nashville Police Department and specifies the procedures and responsibilities of those involved in the program. This program is to give residents of Nashville a safe way to seek help for opiate addiction without fear of incarceration as well as to provide resources to give them hope in becoming independent.

II. Definitions

Opiate Addiction: Individuals who have become dependent on opiates such as morphine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone, OxyContin, Percocet, Percodan, and hydrocodone that is found in Vicodin.

Program Coordinator: The Patrol Commander is assigned by the Police Chief as the person responsible for the administration of the HOPE Initiative Program.

III. Procedures

A. Any person who enters the Police Department or makes contact with an officer and requests help with their addiction to opiates will be immediately screened into the HOPE Initiative Program

B. If the person who has requested help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or paraphernalia (ie needles) it shall be the policy of the Nashville Police Department NOT to charge them.

C. An officer will be assigned to the program participant to assist them in getting needed community services.

D. The officer will insure that the HOPE Initiative WAIVER, AGREEMENT, and CHECK SHEET forms are completed.

E. Complete a NCIC check on the individual.

F. Any drugs or paraphernalia which is voluntarily turned over shall be documented on the INTAKE form and then submitted into evidence for proper disposal.

G. EVALUATION:

1. The participant may wait in the lobby or be taken to the interview room to wait.

2. Contact Eastpointe at 1-252-913-6109. Inform them that we have a person who is requesting help with their opiate addiction through the Nashville Police Department's HOPE Initiative Program and that we are requesting them to be evaluated.

H. Place completed forms in the Chief's Mail Box.

I. Unable to find immediate assistance:

1. If the participant is unable to be placed after exhausting all possible methods, the participant is not to leave without being given a plan to continue with help. The participant shall be afforded every courtesy to find them a safe place upon departure.

J. Officers will immediately notify the Patrol Commander of their actions.

K. A person seeking help with their addiction to opiates may be deemed INELIGIBLE to participate in the Nashville Police Department's HOPE initiative program if:

Having outstanding warrants or have NCIC hits, which will be dealt with on an individual basis.

The participant shows any signs or symptoms of withdrawal, any clear medical conditions, or simply requests at the time of intake, he or she needs immediate medical attention – seek transportation to Nash General Hospital.

Effective Date

The effective date of this General Order is January 30, 2016

By the order of

Electronic Signature
Thomas A. Bashore
Chief of Police