



SAFE PASSAGE INITIATIVE

POLICE GIVING ADDICTS HOPE THROUGH THE TOOLS FOR RECOVERY

Program Policy

BACKGROUND:

Opiate overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Over the past several years, opiate overdose has been a major public health concern in Lee County, Illinois. In 2015, Lee County suffered numerous overdoses and overdose deaths.

To help reduce the number of fatal and nonfatal overdoses in Lee County, we are changing the way we handle addicts who request help with their addiction to opiates such as morphine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone as found in OxyContin®, Percocet® and Percodan®, and hydrocodone as found in Vicodin®. There are limited facilities in the Sauk Valley Area to care for these individuals, and it is very difficult to gain admission to in-patient facilities. It is recognized that there is a narrow window, generally 12 – 24 hours, to help a person addicted to opiates when they decide they want help. The purpose of this program is to divert them away from the criminal justice system and immediately to treatment.

With strong community support and the support of the Lee County State's Attorney Anna Sacco-Miller, Dixon Police Chief Danny Langloss and Lee County Sheriff John Simonton will be adopting the following policy, effective September 1, 2015, to address the needs of any Lee County resident who comes into either law enforcement agency requesting help with their opiate addiction.

POLICY:

Any Lee County resident who enters the police station or sheriff's department and requests help with their addiction to opiates will be immediately screened into the Safe Passage Initiative. If such a person who has requested help with their addiction is in possession of drugs or their drug equipment (needles, etc.), they will not be charged. Any officers having contact with anyone entering the Dixon Police Department or Lee County Sheriff's Department and requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times. The officer or deputy will immediately notify the Shift Supervisor that a potential Safe Passage intake is requesting help with their addiction.

DEFINITIONS:

Safe Passage Guide: *A volunteer who assists the police and the sheriff's department help people who are suffering from addiction.*

Treatment Liaison Coordinator: *A person designated by the Police Chief or Sheriff who determines appropriate placement for program participants and has direct contact with in-patient treatment providers.*





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THE SHIFT SUPERVISOR WILL TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

- Assign an officer/deputy to meet with, monitor, and begin the “Intake” paperwork with the program participant. The officer/deputy will remain with the program participant until the Safe Passage Guide arrives. Upon the Guide’s arrival, have the officer bring them into the appropriate comfortable setting within the police or sheriff’s department.
- Insure that a Safe Passage Initiative **Program Intake, Program Participant Agreement Forms, DAST Evaluation, and Release of Information** are completed.
- Insure that a criminal history and warrant check and search has been completed on the participant.
- Contact the on-call Guide who is willing to assist this participant. Provide the basic information about the program participant and asked them to respond to the police or sheriff’s department.
- Contact the **Treatment Liaison Coordinator** to facilitate the treatment placement process.
- If any drugs and/or drug equipment are turned over, they shall be documented on the in-take form; upon completion of documentation properly disposed of. The supervisor will ensure a police report was generated and contained appropriate documentation to include: the participant’s name, brief background, whether or not drugs or drug equipment was turned over, the name of the Guide assigned to the participant, and where the participant was ultimately taken.
- If needed for a medical condition, contact KSB Emergency Room and inform them there is a Safe Passage program participant who needs to be medically evaluated. The officer/deputy will determine if an ambulance is needed or if the participant can be transported by the officer, deputy, or an Guide. The officer/deputy will respond to KSB ER and provide the necessary information and support to KSB Staff.
- Ensure all completed documentation is turned over to Command Staff Executive Assistant at the Dixon Police Department.
- Program participants can be transported to the treatment facility by a family member, Guide, police officer, or deputy, depending of the circumstances. Transportation by a police officer or deputy should be the last option.
- Attempt to secure a new Guide if either the participant or the Guide requests that it be done.
- If the participant is unable to be immediately placed into treatment, but the treatment center can take the patient within the next 2 days, the **Treatment Liaison Coordinator** will contact KSB Hospital and arrange for admission of the patient. Once this is completed, the participant should be transported to KSB ER for evaluation and admission to the Medical / Surgical Floor.
- 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.





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THE OFFICER / DEPUTY WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- All officers/deputy having contact with anyone requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times.
- If the initial contact is made on the street and is initiated by the officer/deputy, officer/deputy will use their discretion, which is exercised on a daily basis. For the purposes of a participant turning over drugs or drug equipment, this program is specifically and exclusively applies to persons who present at the police station for help. Exceptions will only be made by the Police Chief or Sheriff.
- Any officer or deputy who has been assigned to the participant by the Shift Supervisor will have the participant complete a **Safe Passage Intake Form**, sign a **Program Participant Agreement Form**, **complete the DAST Evaluation**, and **Release of Information form**. The Guide can assist with this process, but it is the responsibility of the officer/deputy to make sure it is completed. These forms will be turned into Command Staff Executive Assistant.
- Once assigned to the participant, the officer/deputy will monitor them until properly relieved by a Guide. The officer/deputy should work to create a comfortable environment for the participant. The participant should not be placed in the Dixon Police Department processing room or like rooms in the police or sheriff's department.
- The officer/deputy will make the Shift Supervisor aware of any issues or concerns.
- The officer/deputy will complete a police report documenting the entry into the Safe Passage Initiative. The report shall contain appropriate documentation, to include the participants name, brief background, whether or not drugs or drug equipment was turned over, the name of the Guide assigned to the participant, and where the participant was ultimately taken.
- If the officer/deputy provides transport to a treatment center outside of Lee County, 2 officers or deputies will transport.
- Prior to transport of the participant, the officer or deputy will conduct a search of the participant and the participant's belongings for anything that could cause a safety concern or illegal drugs / drug equipment. This will require the consent of the participant. If the participant fails to provide consent, they will not be eligible for this program.

SAFE PASSAGE GUIDE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- All volunteers participating as a Safe Passage Guide will be approved by the Police Chief or Sheriff.
- It is recognized that volunteer Guides will possibly be people in recovery. People in recovery bring a unique perspective to addiction and can symbolize hope for a person seeking treatment.
- Once notified, the on call Guide will respond to the police or sheriff's department.





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- *The Guide will provide emotional support and guidance to program participant. The Guide will also provide support with the intake process, to include necessary paperwork for the Safe Passage Initiative.*
- *If possible, the Guide will remain with the program participant until he/she has been formally admitted to Detox or In-Patient treatment. This includes staying with the participant at the police or sheriff's department, at the hospital, or at the intake location for the treatment facility.*
- *When reasonably safe to do so and if available, the Guide will provide transportation to the program participant to the designated treatment facility. The Guide will be eligible for mileage and meal reimbursement. A minimum of 2 people will provide transport.*
- *The Guide will be listed on the medical release waiver, so he/she can stay in contact with the patient through the treatment process.*
- *The Guide will notify the police department of any issues or concerns that arise.*

EXCEPTIONS:

A person seeking help with their addiction to opiates may be deemed INELIGIBLE to participate in the Safe Passage Initiative if:

- *The subject has an outstanding arrest warrant. If the warrant is for a minor offense, failure to appear or contempt/non-payment, an exception could be made to this provision with approval of the State's Attorney having jurisdiction over the warrant.*
- *The subject has three or more drug-related CONVICTIONS on their criminal record if at least one of those CONVICTIONS is from a possession with intent to distribute OR trafficking OR drug violation in a school zone.*
- *The officer, deputy, or shift supervisor expresses the reasonable belief that the Guide could be seriously harmed by the subject.*
- *The subject is under age 18 and does not have parent or guardian consent.*
- *If the subject presents with any signs or symptoms of withdrawal or any other clear medical conditions, or simply requests at the time of intake, he or she will be immediately transported to the KSB Emergency Room.*

