

Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan
Subject: Away With Out Leave (AWOL) Escape
Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(4)
Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011

Authorized: _____ **Effective date:** _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

The Erie County Jail shall have policies and procedures, and practices which evidence that there is a plan that guides the jail's response to emergencies. All jail personnel will be trained in the implementation of the emergency plan. The emergency plan will include procedures to be followed in situations that threaten jail security.

DEFINITION

A jail emergency can be, but not limited to, escape, hostage situation, fire, riot, food poisoning, civil disturbance in the community, natural disaster, suicide, other death, outbreak of contagious disease, inmate strike and other disturbances, bomb threat, or any action that affects or jeopardizes the security of the Erie County Jail and/or the safety of the inmates and/or staff.

PROCEDURE

A. Policy:

1. All personnel shall give the highest priority to the apprehension of the escapee.

B. Discovery:

1. If an inmate does not return from a court sanction temporary release from incarceration, the Shift Supervisor shall:
 1. Ascertain the exact date and time the inmate was scheduled to return.
 - a. If a reasonable amount of time has passed and the inmate has not returned, the inmate should be considered AWOL.
 2. Make positive identification of the inmate.

C. Notification:

1. Notify the Jail Administrator of the AWOL inmate:
 1. Either the Jail Administrator or Shift Supervisor will contact the Court or Agency that approved the furlough, work release, etc.
 2. No information will be released to the news media without approval of the Sheriff or his designee.

D. Reporting:

1. All corrections officers involved are required to submit a detailed written report of the incident as soon as possible. The Shift Supervisor will place an AWOL (Away With Out Leave) Event, attaching the inmate in the Shift Log of the Jail's Record Management System.

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E. Crime Scene:

1. Any and all items the inmate may have been in possession of (cards, letters, notes, etc.) should be kept secure at the scene for investigators.

F. Investigation:

1. In the event of an AWOL Escape, the Detective Bureau of the Erie County Sheriff's Office will conduct a criminal investigation.

G. Evaluation:

1. A complete evaluation of the AWOL Escape, including circumstances that led up to and action taken by corrections staff, will be conducted by the Jail Administrator.
2. The Jail Administrator will present all findings of the evaluation in writing to the corrections staff and the Sheriff.