





SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS POLICY	513
Effective:	April 2025
Approval: EMS Director Travis Kusman, MPH	Signed: 
Approval: EMS Medical Director Greg Gilbert, MD	Signed: 

LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUESTING AN EMS RESPONSE

I. PURPOSE

This policy identifies the requirements and procedure for law enforcement personnel who are on scene of an incident and need to request an EMS response for patient evaluation.

II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, §1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulation, Title 22, Division 9, §100096.03

III. DEFINITIONS

EMS Response: Any 9-1-1 or non-emergency medical response originating in or serviced by San Mateo County EMS Personnel.

Priority 1 Response: An emergency (lights and siren) response.

Priority 3 Response: A non-emergency (no lights or siren) response.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. If while on scene of an incident a law enforcement officer needs to request an EMS response to evaluate a patient, the law enforcement officer will provide the following information to their dispatch center:

1. Chief complaint or incident type;
2. approximate age of the patient(s);
3. whether the patient is conscious;
4. whether the patient is breathing;
5. whether there is chest pain;
6. whether there is severe bleeding (spurting); and
7. whether the patient is currently aggressive or violent.

If this information is not provided, Public Safety Communications (“PSC”) will dispatch a Priority 1 Response.

B. A Priority 1 Response should always be requested for any of the following situations:

1. Any indication of an emergency medical condition (e.g., not breathing, breathing problems, chest pain, severe bleeding, head injury, abdominal pain, or other serious injuries);

2. a person confused, disoriented, unconscious, or not alert;
 3. suspected intoxication and unable to walk independently;
 4. complaint of fainting or seizure;
 5. childbirth; or
 6. motor vehicle, motorcycle, or bicycle crash incidents with:
 - a. Vehicle versus pedestrian (any speed);
 - b. obvious injury or complaint of pain or injury;
 - c. significant damage to passenger compartment or airbag deployment.
- C. Law Enforcement personnel may not direct patient destination. The transporting paramedic shall follow EMS patient destination policies.