

CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Note: This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by the Charlottesville Police Department and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

Type of Directive: GENERAL ORDER	Number:
Mental Illness Response	Date: November 22, 2019
VLEPSC Number:	Manual Number: 531.03
	Effective Date: 11/22/2019
Authorization: Chief R.M. Brackney <i>Rm Brackney</i>	Follow-up Date: As Needed

I. PURPOSE

Interacting with the mentally ill can pose a significant challenge to law enforcement. Persons suffering from these conditions may behave in erratic and unpredictable manner and can pose a serious safety hazard to the public and responding officers.

The Charlottesville Police Department will make every effort to deal with mentally ill persons in a compassionate and safe manner in order to protect the individual, the public, family members and emergency service providers.

This policy provides guidance for recognizing some of the symptoms associated with mental issues as well as addressing some of the more common interactions agency personnel might encounter with such individuals.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Charlottesville Police Department to recognize and provide equal treatment to individuals that are mentally ill and make reasonable adjustments to our tactics on a case-by-case basis, such as by using more time, sensitivity and patience to a person displaying symptoms of mental illness.

A limited number of the enclosed City of Charlottesville Police Department General Orders have been redacted. The redactions ensure that that Police Department's operational and tactical responses are withheld for community and Officer Safety (e.g., bank alarm response, response to an active threat, and Tactical Operations).