Peterborough Police Service Board

Policy
Police Response to Persons Who Are Emotionally Disturbed or Have a Mental Illness or Developmental Disability 2026-LE-037

Contents

1.0 Authority
2.0 Definitions
3.0 Board Policy
4.0 Direction to the Chief
5.0 Report to the Board
6.0 Implementation

1.0 Authority

1.1 Subsection 37(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1,* ("CSPA") provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by section 10 of the CSPA;

1.2 Subsection 38 (2) of the CSPA provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the police service or the provision of policing;

1.3 O. Reg. 3/99 prescribes standards for adequacy and effectiveness of police services;

1.4 Subsection 6 (1) 4. viii of O. Reg. O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General) requires the Chief of Police to establish written procedures respecting police response to Persons in Crisis, as defined in this policy.

1.5 Subsection 39 (1) 4 of the CSPA requires that the strategic plan of the Police Service Board address, inter alia, police interactions with Persons in Crisis.

NOW THEREFORE THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE SERVICE BOARD APPROVES AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

2.0 Definitions

In this Policy:

2.1 **"Act" or "CSPA"** means the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1,* as amended;

2.2 **"Board"** means the Peterborough Police Service Board;

2.3 **"Chief"** means the Chief of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.4 **"Member"** means a member of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.5 ***"Persons in Crisis"*** includes those persons who appear to be emotionally disturbed, or who appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.

2.6 **"Service"** means the Peterborough Police Service.

3.0 Board Policy

3.1 It is the policy of this Board that investigations involving Persons in Crisis be conducted professionally and thoroughly, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief as directed in this policy.

3.2 The Board is committed to working in partnership with community mental health agencies to provide prompt coordinated service delivery.

3.3 The Board is committed to working with community agencies, persons with mental illnesses and their families to reduce the stigma of mental illness and to share the responsibility for improving the quality of life for persons who suffer from mental illnesses and disorders.

4.0 Direction to the Chief

4.1 Procedures

4.1.1 The Chief shall develop and maintain written procedures that address the police response to Persons in Crisis, and that ensure that such response be conducted professionally and in accordance with this policy.

4.1.2 The procedures referred to in Section 4.2.1 shall be in accordance with subsection 6 (1) 4. viii of O. Reg. O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General).

4.2 Community Partnership

4.2.1 The Chief shall, where possible, work with appropriate community members and agencies, healthcare providers, government agencies, municipal officials, other criminal justice agencies, and the local Crown Attorney to address Service issues relating to Persons in Crisis,

4.3 Training

4.3.1 The Chief shall ensure that all Members have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities to deal with Persons in Crisis.

4.3.2 The Chief shall ensure that the Service's skills development and learning plan addresses training of Members, on:

a) local protocols;
b) conflict resolution and use of force in situations involving Persons in Crisis; and
c) the provisions of the *Mental Health Act*.

5.0 Report to the Board

5.1 The Chief shall report to the Board on the Service implementation of this Policy as follows:

5.1.1 In response to questions from the Board regarding Service procedures developed pursuant to the policy, either verbally at a meeting when the question is asked, or in writing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, as directed by the Board; and

5.1.2 Within thirty days of the Chief becoming aware of a breach of Service procedures developed pursuant to this policy that the Chief in his sole discretion determines to be a significant breach that is likely to result in liability for or reputational damage to the Board or the Service, the Chief shall:

a) report to the Board verbally regarding the matter at its next regularly scheduled meeting;

b) provide periodic verbal updates as directed by the Board at subsequent meetings pending completion of internal and external proceedings regarding the matter; and

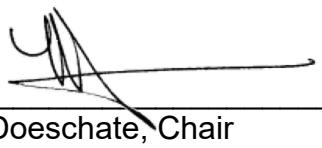
c) after the conclusion of all internal and external proceedings regarding the matter, provide a written report to the Board explaining:

i) the breach;
ii) the circumstances surrounding the breach;
iii) the Chief's liability or reputational concerns; and
iv) the corrective measures taken, including amendments to the procedure to guard against future breaches.

6.0 Implementation

6.1 That the Board approves and adopts this Policy #2026-LE-037 Police Response to Persons who are Emotionally Disturbed or have a Mental Illness or Developmental Disability which shall come into force on October 21, 2026.

6.2 That Policy #LE-013 Police Response to Persons who are Emotionally Disturbed or have a Mental Illness or Developmental Disability, enacted on October 20, 2014, is hereby repealed effective October 21, 2026.



Mary ten Doeschate, Chair
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date



Lisa Wilson, Executive Assistant
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date