



# DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## SHERIFF WALTER L. DAVIS, III

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### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Title: <b>Handling of Weapons – Obtained by Delaware County EMS</b>		Number: <b>S.O.P. #091</b>
Issued and Approved by: Sheriff Walter L. Davis, III		Total Pages: 2 plus attachment
Date Approved: 04/14/2008	Date Posted: 04/16/2008	Date Effective: 04/22/2008

#### A. PURPOSE:

To establish a procedure for handling of weapons encountered by the Delaware County EMS at the scene of an emergency, our encountered during the transportation of a patient to a medical facility.

#### B. SCOPE:

The Delaware County Emergency Medical Service has put in place standard operating guidelines, titled "Firearms Handling on Incidents". This policy provides procedures to deal with transportation and custody of these weapons when our office is notified by EMS of such weapons in their possession, which will encompass how deputies process these weapons and there storage.

#### C. DISTRIBUTION:

To all employees under the direction of the Sheriff.

#### D. POLICY:

Firearms encountered at the scene of an emergency will, to the extent possible, remain at the scene when located by the County EMS.

If a weapon is encountered by County EMS and law enforcement is not already on the scene, County EMS will immediately ensure notification of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

County EMS will work with in the framework of their standard operating guidelines.

**E. PROCEDURE:**

1. Weapons located on the scene of incident by EMS
  - a. When notified by EMS of a weapon located on the scene of an incident deputy(s) will be dispatched to the incident location (unless another county law enforcement agency has jurisdiction and will be handling the incident)
  - b. Once on scene deputy(s) will comply with all Sheriff's Office operating procedures as they relate to reporting, investigation, chain of custody, and evidence, safe keeping or contraband handling. These incidents will be investigated to their fullest extent.
2. Weapons transported by EMS or found during transport
  - a. These weapons will have been placed in a secure compartment by EMS personnel and an "Ordnance Chain of Custody Form" will be completed by EMS in compliance with their standard operating guidelines.
  - b. The Sheriff's Office will be notified of the weapon in EMS custody by the DCEMS Captain
  - c. The DCEMS Captain will be placed in contact with Shift Sergeant / O.I.C. who will make arrangements to have a deputy meet with the DCEMS Captain at a location in the county to take custody of the weapon.
  - d. The deputy taking custody of the weapon will complete a report, either incident or offense, based off the facts presented in regards to the firearm and circumstances involved in the firearm being obtained by EMS. This investigation will also encompass verification of any CCW permits.
  - e. The deputy will insure that the Gold copy of the "EMS Ordinance Chain of Custody Form" is attached to the report.
  - f. The deputy will also complete a Delaware County Sheriff's Office Property Record Form, indicating the appropriate disposition for the property based on the deputy's investigation. This will also include the making safe of the weapon and proper storage for submittal to the property room.

3. Return of weapon to the owner

- a. Any weapon taken as result of this policy is subject to return to the owner in compliance with current Sheriff's Office policy and procedure. (See S.O.P. # 195 Property & Evidence; Handling Of)

Attachments: DCEMS ORDINANCE CHAIN OF CUSTODY FORM