

CIT Law Enforcement Officer Policy

Crisis Intervention Team

The (name the Police/Sheriff's Departments) Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) works to decriminalize the mentally ill. It does this by working to establish partnerships with public safety communications and health professionals and community mental health consumer advocates to reach the common goals of safety, understanding, knowledge, and service to individuals who are in crisis and who exhibit symptoms of mental illness. Officers on the CIT receive specialized training and are certified to work with mentally ill individuals and their families to resolve the issue at the lowest level possible. While arrest is possible, it should be resorted to only if all other avenues for resolution have been exhausted.

When responding to individuals who exhibit symptoms of mental illness, responding officers should use the CIT-trained officer as a resource. Whenever possible, a member of the CIT should be initially dispatched to calls for service involving mentally ill individuals. The first CIT member on the scene will assume responsibility for the call. Additional officers on the scene will provide backup as necessary. Following each call, the CIT member will submit a report to the (name the party responsible for data collection and reporting).

Refer to your departmental policy to ensure this meets the necessary mandates.