


MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT		Department Manual: Policy No. 3.07
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY		
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: : 1.2.4; 44.2.2; 72.5.4; 72.8.1		GENERAL ORDER 21-14
Effective Date: July 13, 2021 References: MGL's page 9	Issuing Authority <i>Michael L. Lyle</i> Michael L. Lyle Chief of Police	

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I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES:

The abuse of alcohol is a serious, nationwide public health problem. The compulsive use of alcohol has an adverse effect not only on the alcoholic but on their families, their employers, and the community as a whole.

Excessive drinking often results in serious breaches of the public peace, damage to property, assault and battery, and other more serious crimes. Family neglect and

domestic violence situations requiring police attention often involve alcohol abuse. The broken homes which often result are considered a major factor contributing to juvenile delinquency.

Historically, arrests for "drunkenness" have constituted a high proportion of police activity in every community. In the past, except for traffic violations, more arrests were made for drunkenness than for all other offenses combined. The punitive approach to this social problem has been costly, time-consuming and ineffective. This, of course, has not been the fault of the police, for they previously had no other recourse.

In an attempt to resolve this long-standing problem, Massachusetts law now provides that public intoxication is not a crime. Alcoholism is a disease. By statute detoxification facilities and related programs are provided for the treatment and rehabilitation of persons suffering from alcoholism.ⁱ The law also provides for the protective custody of persons incapacitated from consuming alcohol.ⁱⁱ A person who is incapacitated from drugs alone does not fall under the provisions of this law. A person who has been taken into protective custody is not considered to have been arrested or charged with a crime.

Nothing contained in Chapter 111B shall affect any laws, ordinances, by-laws, resolutions or regulations against driving after drinking alcohol, driving under the influence of alcohol, or other similar offenses that involve the operation of motor vehicles, machinery or other hazardous equipment.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Alcoholism:** A medically diagnosable disease characterized by chronic, habitual or periodic consumption of alcoholic beverages resulting in the (i) substantial interference with an individual's social or economic functions in the community or (ii) the loss of powers of self-control with respect to the use of such beverages.
- B. **Custody:** Legal or physical control of a person in an area or facility or while in transit; legal, supervisory, or physical responsibility for a person.
- C. **Facility:** Any public or private place, or portion thereof, providing services especially for the detoxification of intoxicated persons or alcoholics.
- D. **Incapacitated:** The condition of an intoxicated person who, by reason of the consumption of intoxicating liquor, is (1) unconscious, (2) in need of medical attention, (3) likely to suffer or cause physical harm or damage property, or (4) disorderly.

III. TAKING CUSTODY:

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- A. In the absence of an accompanying crime, an officer shall not arrest an intoxicated person. If the situation does not warrant an arrest, but action is necessary, a police officer has the authority to assist an incapacitated person, with or without his consent, (1) to his residence, to a HOSPITAL (treatment facility), or to the police station. While not required, officers are urged to obtain consent where possible. Sometimes EMS will refuse to transport if an adult states they do not want to go. However, the right to refuse transport and treatment do not apply to a police PC (Probable Cause) decision. Officer should say to the EMS CREW: "This person is in police protective custody; they do not have a choice."
- B. In order to determine whether or not a person is intoxicated, an officer may request such person to submit to reasonable tests of coordination, coherency of speech, and breath. Examples of such tests are listed at the end of this Policy and Procedure (OUI-Field Sobriety Testing).
- C. Any incapacitated person assisted to the police station shall have the right after arriving at the station to request and be administered a breathalyzer test and shall immediately be informed in writing of such right.
- NOTE: The following notice will be provided.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

(Protective Custody Cases)

- *THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 111B, SECTION 8 OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST AND BE ADMINISTERED A BREATHALYZER TEST. IF YOU ARE TO BE HELD IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, YOU ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ONE TELEPHONE CALL AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE ON YOUR OWN BEHALF.*
- D. Breathalyzer test results shall be utilized as follows:
1. If the reading (which indicates the percentage of alcohol in a person's blood) is .10 or above establishes incapacitation (not like .08 for OUI) and shall be placed in protective custody and transferred to a facility. The last resort will be the police station.
 2. A BT of .06 - .09 authorizes FST's and a decision to release or hold subject. No presumption based solely on the breathalyzer test shall be made. In this event, a reasonable test of coordination or speech coherency must be administered to determine if the person is intoxicated.

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3. A BT of .05 or below entitles the subject to immediate release. The person shall be presumed not to be intoxicated and shall be released from custody forthwith.
- E. Any person presumed intoxicated and to be held in protective custody at a police station shall, immediately after such presumption, have the right and be informed of the right to make a telephone call at his own expense and on his own behalf.
- F. Any person presumed intoxicated who is assisted by a police officer to a facility shall have the right to make one phone call at his own expense and on his own behalf and shall be informed forthwith upon arriving at the facility of said right. (See above Notice of Rights).
- G. The parent or guardian of any person under the age of eighteen to be held in protective custody at a police station shall be notified forthwith upon arrival at said station or as soon as possible thereafter. Upon the request of the parent or guardian, the juvenile or such person shall be released to the custody of the parent or guardian. Unless, parent or guardian arrives incapacitated or unable to act responsibly. In such cases the child shall be held and DCF notified. **44.2.2 (b), (e)**
- H. If an incapacitated person is assisted to the police station, the Officer-in-Charge or his designee shall notify forthwith the nearest treatment facility that such person is being held under protective custody. If suitable treatment services are available at a facility, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) shall thereupon arrange for the transportation of the person to the facility. The following detox facilities are listed on the DPH website:

Programs with BSAS logo are funded by Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse.

Detox Treatment Center

Inpatient drug and alcohol detoxification for men & women



Boston Treatment Center – P: 617.247.1001. F: 617.266.3144

Danvers Treatment Center – P: 978.777.2121. F: 978.774.4814

Tewksbury Treatment Center – P: 978.259.7000. F: 978.259.7028.

Dimock Detox - Detox

Dimock Community Health Center, Roxbury, MA 02119

617-442-9661

www.dimock.org

For more information please check the DPH website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/physical-health-treatment/diseases-and-conditions/addictions/drugs-and-alcohol/>

- I. Nothing in these procedures shall be construed to require or permit a police officer to hold a person in protective custody against his will unless suitable treatment at a facility is not available. If such treatment is not available, the person may be held in protective custody at the station for the following periods, whichever is shorter:
 - 1. up to 12 hours;
 - 2. until (S)he is no longer incapacitated.
- J. An officer may use such force as is reasonable and necessary to carry out the procedures herein.

IV. SEARCH AND TRANSPORTATION:

- A. An officer is authorized and is required to make a search of an incapacitated person and his immediate surroundings whenever the following conditions exist: **1.2.4 (g)**
 - 1. the officer reasonably believes that the officer's safety or the safety of other persons present requires the search; **1.2.4 (e)**
 - 2. the search is limited to the extent necessary to discover any dangerous weapons that on that occasion may be used against the officer or other persons present. **1.2.4 (b)**

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- NOTE: The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 1989 that a "pat down" search of an incapacitated individual who is being taken into protective custody which detected the presence of drugs was lawful. The Court ruled that the inevitable discovery exception to the exclusionary rule was applicable since the same evidence would have been inevitably discovered when an inventory search was conducted upon arrival at the police station.ⁱⁱⁱ A similar result was obtained when the same Court in 1987 ruled that a gun discovered in a pat down search of an incapacitated individual was lawfully seized.^{iv}

- B. Before transporting an incapacitated person, the officer-in-Charge shall be notified so that he may arrange for assistance, if available. If an incapacitated person is to be transported to his residence or a treatment facility, the Officer-in-Charge shall make arrangements for such transportation if such residence or facility is not on the route of the patrol officer.
- C. If an officer comes upon, or responds to a call in regard to, an incapacitated person, the officer shall be aware of and immediately consider the possibility of other ailments.
 - 1. An incoherent, unsteady or unconscious person, for example, might be suffering from an epileptic seizure, insulin shock, diabetic coma, stroke, heart attack, or brain injury.
 - 2. If the officer, relying on his own judgment and field experience, believes the above or similar conditions may be present, he shall immediately make arrangements for medical treatment in accordance with departmental procedures.
- D. Officers shall extend the same considerations to an incapacitated person that they would offer to a person suffering from any other illness.

V. SAFEGUARDING AT POLICE STATION:

- A. An incapacitated person held in protective custody at the police station shall have the following property taken from him for safekeeping in accordance with departmental procedures: **1.2.4 (f)**
 - 1. belts, shoe laces, drawstrings, neckties, neck chains, matches, and cigarette lighters;
 - 2. all other articles which may pose a danger or harm to such person or to others;
 - 3. personal property and other valuables.

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- NOTE: Such property shall be kept in a safe place, and an inventory shall be maintained.
- B. An unconscious person shall never be placed in a cell unattended at any time. In such cases, immediate medical care shall be provided in accordance with departmental procedures.
- C. The officer-in-charge, or his designee, shall take every precaution to ensure that all persons held in protective custody are prevented from harming themselves in any way by carefully observing them at intervals of not more than thirty (30) minutes. A record shall be maintained of the time of such observations in accordance with departmental procedures. [72.5.4](#); [72.8.1](#)
- D. Persons to be released from protective custody prior to the expiration of the **maximum statutory twelve-hour holding period**, who will be released into their own care and custody, should have a breathalyzer test administered to determine that their level of intoxication is below the legal limit of .10. Those who are still above the legal limit of .10 or who decline to take a breathalyzer test (which is their right) should not be released to their own custody.
- NOTE: Individuals who are released on bail following an arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol may be placed in protective custody if they are still "incapacitated" as defined in c. 111B. The foregoing considerations regarding release will govern a decision to release such individual from protective custody.

VI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A report of protective custody shall be made indicating the date, time, place of custody, the name of the assisting officer, the name of the Officer-in-Charge, whether the person held in custody exercised his right to make a phone call, whether the person held in custody exercised his right to take a breathalyzer test, and the results of the breathalyzer test if taken. Such record shall not be treated, for any purposes, as an arrest or criminal record.
- B. Officer(s) shall file a report indicating the nature of the incident which gave rise to any police involvement, the method of handling the problem, and any injuries observed on the incapacitated person including their cause and medical treatment, if any.
- C. Police should be aware that Massachusetts Law authorizes police officers (and certain other persons) to file a petition in an appropriate district court requesting that a person who is an alcoholic (or drug dependent person) be committed for a period not to exceed fifteen days to an inpatient public or private facility

approved by the Department of Public Health.^v Where appropriate, police officers should advise the family and friends of a problem alcoholic of the procedures available under this law.

- NOTE: Police officers are immune from civil suits for damages for restraining, transporting, applying for the admission or admitting any person to a facility if the officer acts pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 123.^{vi}

VI. TESTS FOR DETERMINING INTOXICATION:

Balance

Have the subject stand on one foot with his arms outstretched; repeat with the other foot. Next, have the subject stand with his feet together, arms by his side, and eyes closed. Note any loss of balance, swaying, and jerky motions by the subject.

Walking and Turning

Have the subject walk, in a heel to toe manner, a straight line of about 20 feet. Just before the subject reaches the end of the line, direct him to quickly turn and walk heel to toe back to the starting point. Note any deviations from the line by the subject as well as any difficulty or loss of balance experienced by him in walking and turning.

Finger to Nose

Have the subject stand with his feet together, arms extended to the side, and eyes closed. Direct him to touch the tip of his nose with the index finger of his right hand; repeat with the left index finger. Note if and where the index fingers touch and the degree of certainty with which the subject moves.

Alphabet

Ask the subject to recite the alphabet (A to Z) and note any omissions or difficulties.

NOTE: No officer is to administer any type of test which has not been approved by the Chief of Police in advance.

Indications of Alcohol Consumption

Only persons who are incapacitated by consumption of alcohol (no other drugs) may be taken into protective custody. In addition to conducting tests to determine intoxication, officers must be careful to observe and make note of all indications that the intoxication is due to the consumption of alcohol. The odor of alcoholic beverages on the subject's breath; the presence of open alcoholic beverage containers on his person or in his car when stopped; any admission by

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the subject that he has been drinking or is drunk; any statements to the same effect by his companions and any other indications of alcohol use should be so noted.

ⁱM.G.L. c. 111B

ⁱⁱM.G.L. c. 111B, s. 8

ⁱⁱⁱComm. v. O'Connor, 406 Mass. 112, 546 N.E.2d 336 (1989)

^{iv}Comm. v. Tomeo, 400 Mass. 23, 507 N.E.2d 725 (1987)

^vM.G.L. c. 123, s. 35

^{vi}M.G.L. c. 123, s. 22