

HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

STANDARD NO(S): NYSSA #
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REFER TO: Roger O. Ward

I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish guidelines for hostage situations.

II. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Seneca County Correctional Facility to take steps that are most likely to bring about the speedy and safe release of hostages. The facility will use the necessary force when all other options have been exhausted, to gain the release of hostages and/or when hostages are in immediate danger of death or grievous bodily harm.

III. DETAILS:

- A.** Upon discovery that a hostage has been taken, immediately notify Central Control. The notification will include the following information, if known:
 - 1. The exact location of the situation
 - 2. The number of hostages taken, and their names
 - 3. The number of hostage takers involved and their names(s), if known
 - 4. Weapons being used by hostage takers, if any; and
 - 5. Personal injuries and physical damage
- B.** Upon notice, Central Control will record the time, name of officer, location and nature of the situation and will notify the Shift Supervisor.
- C.** The Shift Supervisor upon receipt of information regarding a hostage situation will immediately activate the Corrections Emergency Response Team and notify the Chief Administrative Officer and Correction Lieutenant.
- D.** The Chief Administrative Officer will immediately set up a command center and will coordinate and direct the operation. The Chief Administrative Officer will notify or cause to be notified the Sheriff.
- E.** Once the Sheriff or the Sheriff's designee arrives, the operation will be turned over to them.
- F.** The Sheriff or designee will:

1. Designate a negotiation team
2. Notify the families of any hostage(s)
3. Designate a media liaison and approve all press releases
4. Establish contacts with hostage takers through negotiators
5. Establish a private, comfortable area for reception of hostages upon their release. Such area will have space enough for medical and psychological screening, reuniting hostages with their families and a tactical debriefing.
6. Arrange for continued course of necessary treatment as required

NOTE: When situations arise which are not covered by specific instructions, officers will exercise their best judgment in view of their responsibility for the safety and security of the public, staff and inmates and in the best interests of the facility.