

<b>POLICY 509.1</b>	<b>SEEK THE OTHER PATH (S.T.O.P.) PROGRAM</b>	
	NEW: <b>08/18</b>	RELATED POLICIES: 509
	CFA STANDARDS:	REVIEWED:

**A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for police officers, who encounter individuals seeking treatment for substance abuse/addiction, are experiencing psychiatric crisis or are in need of acute mental health services.

**B. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department to be professional and compassionate when dealing with individuals seeking treatment for a substance abuse disorder or drug addiction. If anyone requests from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department or makes contact with Department personnel seeking treatment for drug addiction, the person will be screened for the S.T.O.P. (Seek The Other Path) Program. This program is in partnership with Henderson Mental Health Services.

**C. DEFINITION**

The Seek The Other Path (S.T.O.P.) Program was modeled after the Angel Program as designed by the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI), which promotes law enforcement agencies to provide assistance to those seeking treatment for substance abuse. The program is to provide the individual with an option to seek treatment, without fear of arrest, should they be in possession of a user amount of drugs or paraphernalia.

**D. USE OF S.T.O.P. PROGRAM**

1. Any officer who is approached by anyone seeking treatment for substance abuse, regardless of the substance they are addicted to, may facilitate escort/transportation of the individual to Henderson Behavioral Health's Central Receiving Facility located at 4720 N SR 7, Lauderdale Lakes, FL.
2. The officer will first determine if the person is in need of immediate medical attention and if so, notify fire-rescue.
3. The officer will conduct a records check of the person as well as a criminal history. If the person is not wanted and has NO criminal history of possession with intent to deliver narcotics, trafficking in narcotics and/or does not have three or more convictions of narcotics possession, the person is eligible to participate in the S.T.O.P Program.
4. The officer will obtain consent to search the person, as required, prior to transporting anyone to the facility. If the person is in possession of more than a

user amount of narcotics or paraphernalia (i.e. packaged for sales, excessive supply, possession of a scale, multiple baggies, etc.) they are not eligible for the program. Any narcotics or paraphernalia will be placed into evidence in accordance with FLPD Policy 105.2

5. If any contraband discovered is a felony offense, the officer may exercise his/her discretion in accordance with the law and not arrest the individual. In making the decision whether to arrest, the officer should consider if the individual is suitable for immediate treatment for their addiction, rather than be arrested and await drug treatment programs through the court system, which will require the individual to wait for treatment.
6. The officer, after determining that the person is seeking assistance and is eligible for the Program, will attempt to refer the person to Henderson Behavioral Health's Central Receiving Facility. The facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officer will place a courtesy call to ensure space is available (954-606-0911). Once the officer confirms that space is available, he/she will transport the person to the facility. The transporting officer will be required to sign in the "client" at Central Receiving Facility and then return to service.
7. All referrals requiring a police transport shall be documented on an Offense Incident Report as a "Police Information". Evidence or paraphernalia surrendered by the subject should be properly documented and submitted for destruction.