



# Mental Health Policy

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## Purpose:

To provide EPS members with the framework for responding to incidents involving persons with mental disorders from the initial police response of apprehension, conveyance, and detention to investigations involving criminal charges, as well as the process for dealing with the escapes from mental health facilities.

## Statement of Principle:

All cases involving mental health are investigated diligently and in accordance with the clauses and stipulations of the *Mental Health Act (MHA)* of Alberta.

## Definitions:

*Definitions listed in this section apply to this document only with no implied or intended organization-wide or EPS Policy and Procedure Manual wide use.*

**Mental Health Act (MHA)** – The *MHA* of Alberta was enacted to provide safeguards, supports, and supervision for mentally ill individuals.

## Policy Statement:

1. Members involved in investigations of persons suspected of a mental disorder must comply with the *MHA*, EPS investigative principles, and abide by the following core values:
  - a. Integrity.
  - b. Accountability.
  - c. Respect.
  - d. Courage.
  - e. Community.
2. EPS members receive training on the principles for defining and dealing with persons suffering from or suspected of suffering from mental health disorders in order to recognize and respond to these incidents effectively.