

Bowie Police Department - General Orders



TITLE: SUICIDE NOTES	NUMBER: 425
EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/20/12	REVIEW DATE:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDS <input type="checkbox"/> RESCINDS	DATE:

AUTHORITY Chief John K. Nesky	ACCREDITATIONS STANDARDS CALEA STANDARDS: 54.1.1-e, 83.2.1	TOTAL PAGES 1
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I. POLICY

- A. An Officer attempting to protect or preserve a crime scene shall be alert for any indication, including documents or other items that would indicate that the scene is that of a suicide.
- B. An Officer shall also be alert for any indication, including documents or other items that may have been “planted” on the crime scene, that the crime scene may have been manipulated in order to appear as though it is that of a suicide.
- C. The Department shall not release the contents of a suicide note to members of the media, even if such disclosure is “off-the-record”. (CALEA 54.1.1e)

II. PROCEDURES (CALEA 83.2.1)

- A. An Officer shall seize any suicide notes as evidence, regardless of whether the suicide is attempted or completed.
- B. The seizing Officer shall attempt to review and compare the victim’s other writings with the victim’s suicide note.
- C. If the victim is transported to a hospital, the Officer shall show the suicide note to the treating physician. The Officer shall maintain custody of the original suicide note.
- D. In the event of an attempted suicide, if the State does not require the original suicide note, a copy of said note shall be attached to the station’s file copy of the report and the original suicide note shall be returned to the victim’s family.
- E. In the event of a completed suicide the original suicide note shall be submitted to the assigned PGPD investigator for placement in the case file, located in the Homicide Section or Special Crimes Section of the PGPD Criminal Investigations Division.