

**ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1126.1, TRANSIENT AND HOMELESS CITIZENS**

EFFECTIVE:	03/02/06
RESCINDS:	1126.0
DISTRIBUTION:	ALL EMPLOYEES
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY:	PATROL SERVICES BUREAU COMMANDER
ACCREDITATION CHAPTERS:	NONE
CHIEF OF POLICE:	JOHN W. MINA

CONTENTS:

1. SERVICES AVAILABLE
2. TRANSIENT-RELATED CALLS
3. HOURS OF OPERATION
4. ELIGIBILITY
5. INTOXICATED PERSONS

POLICY: Officers are encouraged to utilize the Coalition for the Homeless Shelter located at 639 West Central Boulevard when dealing with transients who are cooperative and willing to seek shelter.

The purpose of the shelter is to provide safe, temporary housing as an alternative for individuals who would otherwise be forced to camp outdoors or live in their vehicles.

PROCEDURES:

1. SERVICES AVAILABLE

The shelter provides more than just housing. One of the objectives of the Coalition is to provide follow-up services for clients in an effort to get them off the streets and into the mainstream of the community. The following is a list of the services provided by the shelter:

- a. On Site Medical Clinic - Twice a week a medical team comes to the shelter to provide medical services to any client in need of treatment.
- b. Job Counseling and Placement - The center provides job counseling and placement services to any client who is in need of employment.
- c. Legal Services - Legal Aid provides services to those in need of legal help.
- d. Veterans Administration Counseling - The VA provides on-site assistance for veterans who need special services but may have not received their benefits due to their homeless situation.
- e. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous - Both of these organizations provide counseling to addicts whose homeless situation may be due to alcohol or drug abuse.
- f. A Head Start Program exists for pre-school aged children.
- g. Boys and Girls Clubs - The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida provide recreational services to the children of families staying at the shelter.

2. TRANSIENT-RELATED CALLS

Officers who respond to transient-related calls or who encounter homeless persons during self-initiated activity should consider the shelter as an option to remove the individual from the street. This may be done in lieu of a misdemeanor arrest when minor violations have occurred and the officer feels that the simple removal of the individual would be more practical than a full custody arrest. An example of this would be a City ordinance camping

violation. The homeless individual must be cooperative and willing to stay in the shelter before this option should be considered. Sworn members may transport homeless individuals to the shelter in a marked vehicle.

3. HOURS OF OPERATION

The shelter is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Although the shelter generally does not admit walk-ins after 10 p.m., they will accept persons delivered by OPD officers at any hour.

If a person is to be dropped off after 10 p.m., the Communications service operator should call the shelter in advance so that an employee can open the gate for the officer.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Any homeless individual or family can stay at the shelter. The client does not have to have proper identification to be admitted. Individuals who claim they cannot return due to a prior trespass warning may be allowed to return if the officer requests that the situation be reviewed by the shelter supervisor. If the supervisor is willing to readmit the individual, he/she will be allowed to return.

5. INTOXICATED PERSONS

Individuals may be admitted to the shelter despite intoxication if they are responsive and non-combative.