



**Rockwall County
Sheriff's Office
Detention Division
Policy and Procedures**

Policy: Hostage	Policy #: C-970
Procedure: Hostage Taking	Effective Date: 11/03/2016
Revised Date(s):	Approved By:

Authority:

Texas Commission on Jail Standards – Chapter 263 Life Safety Rules – Subchapter D Plans and Drills for Emergencies

Purpose and Policy Statement:

Purpose – The purpose of this policy is to provide Rockwall County Detention Center staff with guidelines and procedures necessary for hostage incidents. **Policy Statement** – To provide the maximum protection possible for hostages, prevent the escape of the abductor, preserve life, prevent injury and restoration of order.

Scope: - All Rockwall County Detention Officers, Rockwall County Detention Administration, Rockwall County Enforcement Division Administration, Rockwall County CID Sergeant, Rockwall County Sheriff's ERT and the Rockwall County Detention Center's DCT will be notified in the event of a hostage situation.

Definitions –

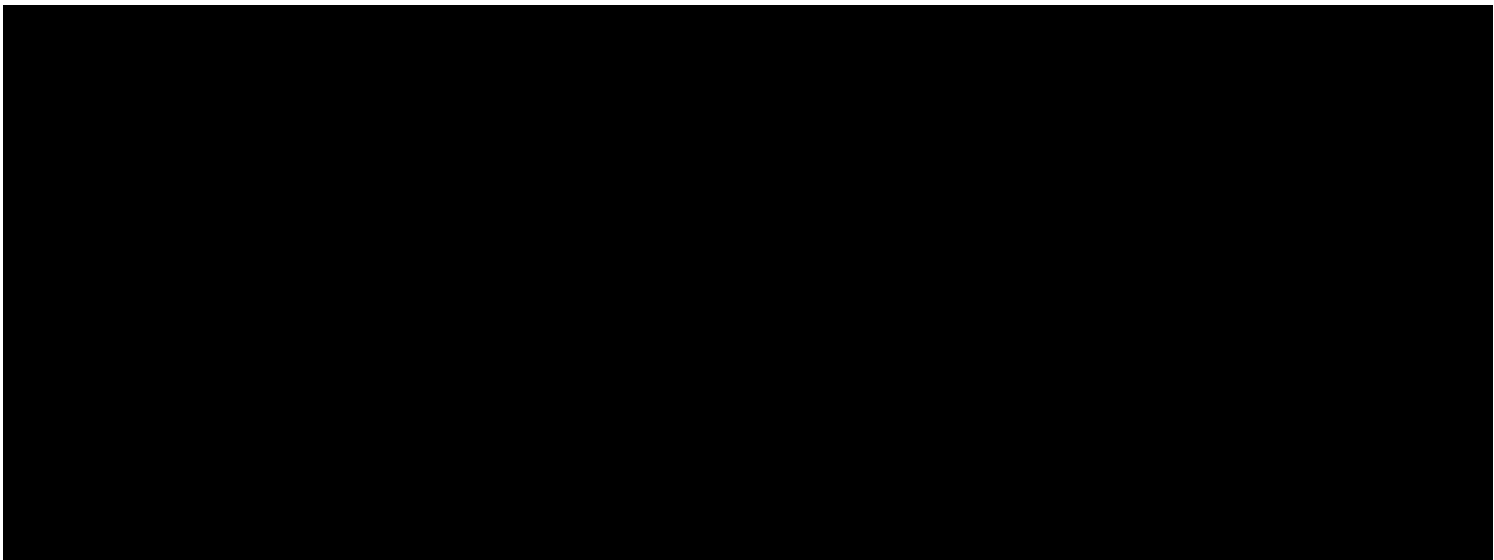
Hostage: Any person(s) held against his/her will by another person for any unlawful reason.

Hostage Negotiator: The Rockwall County Sheriff or his designee.

Policy – A hostage situation will be dealt with in a manner that attempts to ensure the expeditious and safe release of the hostage(s), safeguards the lives of staff, inmates/offenders, and citizens, and leads to the apprehension of the hostage takers.

Any person held as a hostage will be considered under duress and therefore holds no position of authority. The security and integrity of the facility and the community are the highest priority.

Procedure – When a staff member discovers a hostage situation these steps shall to be taken.



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- D. Number, name and location of staff and/or volunteers in the affected area
- E. Threats or demands made by the captor(s), take notes do not paraphrase
- F. All intel , factual, and personal belief information related to the hostage situation
- G. Initial security measures taken to control, contain, and secure the incident location, to include evacuation of all non-participants.

II. Initial Security Measures:

The highest-ranking supervisor on the scene shall:

- A. Ensure that no time will a facility door be opened in the affected area unless instructed by the Hostage Negotiator.
- B. Ensure volunteers, non-essential personnel, and inmates not involved are removed from the affected area, including accommodations for individuals with special needs.
- C. Utilize staff in the immediate area to control, contain, and secure the incident location by limiting activity within the contained area to only that which is necessary, and in order to prevent:
 - a) Other inmates from joining the taking of hostages/additional hostages
 - b) Injury, or possible death to staff, inmates or others
 - c) Damage to other areas
 - d) Escape
 - e) Contamination of a possible crime scene
- D. Immediately notify the Jail Administrator apprising him/her of any escalating situation and request assistance.

III. Personnel taken Hostage:

Staff taken hostage will respond to the captor(s) in the following manner:

- A. Do what your captors instruct you to do, within reason. You may want to resist, and at times it may be appropriate, but you must trust that there are people working to get you out of this situation.
- B. Speak “**only**” when spoken to, “**never**” joke or make sarcastic remarks
- C. Keep eye contact with the captor(s) but do not stare, “**don’t**” turn away from the captor(s) unless so ordered; captor(s) are less likely to harm hostages at whom they are looking.
- D. Try not to show your emotions, captors play on emotional weakness
- E. Act relaxed, this may relax the captor(s)
- F. Sit, if possible, to avoid appearing aggressive
- G. Tell the captor(s) your first name, this will make you a person, not an object
- H. Try to become “**friendly**” to your captor(s). Psychologically, it is much harder for a captor to harm a hostage they know or like.
- I. Get rid of personal effects such as photos of your spouse, if possible

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- J. Don't make suggestions to the captor(s). If your suggestions go wrong, the captor(s) may think that you tried to create problems.
- K. Be especially careful during the first four (4) or five (5) minutes. These are the most critical minutes because captors are as desperate and nervous as the hostages.
- L. Be patient. Have faith in fellow staff and trained hostage negotiators.
- M. Carefully weigh any chance to escape. Be sure escape is certain and will not endanger anyone else.
- N. At first sign of an attempted assault, and/or rescue, immediately lie on the floor, place your hands over your head, and do not move until instructed by staff. **Do not approach the assault team.**

IV. Restoration of Order:

The Jail Administration will ensure the following responsibilities are carried out once the hostage situation is under control:

- A. All injured persons receive medical attention
- B. All inmates in the hostage area are strip searched for weapons and/or contraband; hostage participants will be placed in administration separation pending investigation. Participants will be continually observed to prevent reoccurrence of violence.
- C. A formal head count shall be conducted
- D. The hostage area is to be considered a crime scene and documentation of the area will be obtained. No unauthorized persons will enter the crime scene.
- E. The lock down of the facility will be lifted.

V. After Action Review:

Once normal operations of the facility have been declared the following will take place:

- A. All involved staff members and/or civilians will meet in the EOC for debriefing.
- B. All involved staff members and/or civilians may review any videos prior to writing an incident report/ after action report. See Policy C-102.
- C. After reviewing videos and writing incident reports and/or after action reports the Rockwall County Behavioral Health will be available for anyone that requires their services.

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