



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-85

Effective: 02/28/2022

Review: 08/28/2022

Replaces: N/A

## 2-85 CERTIFICATES FOR EVALUATION

### Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

[2-19 Response to Behavioral Health Issues](#)

[2-20 Hostage Situations, Barricaded Individuals, and Tactical Threat Assessments](#)

B. Form(s)

PD 1502 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Contact Sheet

C. Other Resource(s)

NMSA 1978, § 43-1-10 Emergency Mental Health Evaluation and Care

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

### 2-85-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide specific guidance to Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel, sworn personnel, and supervisors for responding to incidents relating to the service of certificates for evaluation.

### 2-85-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to respond to calls for service relating to certificates for evaluation in a way that protects the privacy of the individual and encourages a safe, compassionate response.

### 2-85-3 Definitions

A. Certificate for Evaluation

A document, completed by a qualified, licensed mental health professional which certifies that an individual person, as a result of a mental disorder, presents a likelihood of harming themselves or others, and that immediate detention is necessary to prevent such harm, which may include grave passive neglect. All Certificates for Evaluation expire seventy-two (72) hours after they are issued, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

B. Qualified Mental Health Professional

A physician, psychologist, or qualified mental health professional is a licensed,



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independent social worker, a licensed professional clinical mental health counselor, a marriage and family therapist, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist with a specialty in mental health, who is qualified to work with individuals having behavioral health crises or with behavioral health disorders.

**2-85-4 Statutory Basis for Certificates for Evaluation**

- A. NMSA 1978, § 43-1-10 allows qualified mental health professionals to write Certificates for Evaluation that provide sworn personnel with the authority to detain and transport individuals to the psychiatric evaluation location indicated on the Certificate for Evaluation.
- B. The qualified mental health professional's order is based on their evaluation that a person, as a result of a behavioral health disorder, presents a likelihood of committing serious harm to themselves or others, and that immediate detention is necessary to ensure the safety of the individual or others.

**6 2-85-5 Procedure for Serving Certificates for Evaluation**

- A. The ECC shall be the central hub for the intake of certificates for evaluation.
  - 1. Qualified mental health professionals shall call the ECC to create a call for service to serve a certificate for evaluation.
  - 2. ECC personnel shall request that the qualified mental health professional provide an electronic copy of the Certificate for Evaluation to [APDCFORE@cabq.gov](mailto:APDCFORE@cabq.gov) before a call for service may be created. ECC personnel shall accept Certificates that are submitted by facsimile.
  - 3. ECC personnel shall create a mental health call for service and attempt to dispatch Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) sworn personnel to all Certificate for Evaluation calls for service, when available.
  - 4. ECC personnel shall generate Certificate for Evaluation calls for service only between the hours of 0600 and 2200 hours. Any Certificate for Evaluation call still pending after 2200 hours shall be reviewed by the on-duty sergeant, to weigh the dangerousness of the individual against the late hour of service.
    - a. If the decision is made not to serve the certificate after 2200, a call for service must be rescheduled by ECC, for the following shift, after 0600.
- B. ECC personnel shall send the primary responding officer an electronic copy of the Certificate for Evaluation to their City email account.
- C. Sworn personnel may print a physical copy of the Certificate for Evaluation prior to service when printing is possible. The individual may receive a physical copy of the Certificate at the time of service, when available. This copy can be helpful in gaining



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compliance of the individual for whom the Certificate was issued.

D. Sworn personnel who are provided with a Certificate for Evaluation shall attempt to call the facility or qualified professional who issued the Certificate. The purpose of this call is to gain more information about the individual. This could include history, likelihood to be armed, or any other information that would be helpful to safely bring the person to a provider. If contact with the issuer cannot be made, the officer shall still attempt the service of the Certificate for Evaluation. The Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) should also be used to gather additional information, when available.

N/A

E. Sworn personnel shall make reasonable efforts to serve any Certificate for Evaluation that is issued; however, these Certificates shall not be used as a basis for forcing entry into any structure in order to take individuals into custody (refer to SOP Hostage Situations, Barricaded Individuals, and Tactical Threat Assessments for sanction classifications and additional duties).

F. Sworn personnel who have detained an individual for a Certificate for Evaluation shall immediately take the individual to an evaluation facility. Most Certificates for Evaluation include the treatment location the issuer would like the transported individual taken to. Sworn personnel should utilize the listed location, if no destination is indicated, sworn personnel should proceed to the nearest psychiatric emergency room or, if known, the location where the individual has received treatment in the past.

G. Whenever an individual is transported to a mental health facility by an officer or by another transporting entity, under the authority of a Certificate for Evaluation, a Uniform Incident Report shall be prepared by the primary officer documenting the transport, in addition to the required Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Contact Sheet.

H. If sworn personnel are unable to contact the individual listed on the Certificate for Evaluation, the primary officer shall advise ECC personnel that the certificate was not served. The officer shall ensure the destruction of any physical copy of the unserved certificate by the end of their duty shift.

1. ECC personnel shall generate one additional call for service on the next day, between 0600 and 2200, but within seventy-two (72) hours of issuing the certificate. Sworn personnel should notify ECC of recommended times to have the best likelihood of service, if learned.
2. If a Certificate for Evaluation has not been served after two (2) Field Services Bureau (FSB) calls, the dispatched officer may contact the on-call Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) Detective for assistance. The primary responsibility of service remains with FSB sworn personnel, unless otherwise dictated by a CIU supervisor.
3. After two FSB attempts to serve, CIU personnel shall have the responsibility of notifying issuing providers of the expiration of Certificates for Evaluation due to



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unsuccessful service at the expiration of the Certificate

- I. At the conclusion of every call involving a Certificate for Evaluation that could not be served, sworn personnel shall enter comments on the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system indicating the outcome. If there was no service, the officer shall comment as to the reason (i.e., person not home, no answer at door, etc.).

**6 2-85-6 Certificate for Evaluation Service Monitoring**

- A. The [APDCFORE@cabq.gov](mailto:APDCFORE@cabq.gov) email account shall be monitored by a CIU supervisor in an effort to identify training needs and to monitor quality of service.
- B. Upon successful service of a Certificate for Evaluation, the serving officer shall notify CIU personnel of the successful service via email to the [APDCIT@cabq.gov](mailto:APDCIT@cabq.gov) email address. Any email should include the corresponding CAD number(s).
- C. If a Certificate for Evaluation is not served within two (2) attempts or if seventy-two (72) hours has expired, ECC personnel shall notify CIU personnel via email to the [APDCIT@cabq.gov](mailto:APDCIT@cabq.gov) email address. Any email should include the corresponding CAD number(s).
- D. CIU shall maintain a repository of all past Certificates for Evaluation for future reference if needed.