




Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

P.O. Box 1489 | Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489 | (850) 410-8600

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2024-07**

DATE: May 10, 2024
TO: Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
FROM: Director Chad Brown 
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division
SUBJECT: Excited Delirium

This technical memorandum is being issued to address the confusion regarding updates to the basic recruit training program's First Aid for Criminal Justice Officers course. Recent reports in the media indicate that FDLE dictates procedures for all criminal justice agencies in the state of Florida; however, this is not the case. The curriculum is developed by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission staff to provide recruits with the foundational knowledge required for certification. Subsequently, the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission approves this curriculum. The curriculum does not replace the policies and procedures of an individual agency.

During the most recent revision of the First Aid for Criminal Justice Officers course in the basic recruit training program's *High Liability* textbook, subject matter experts (SMEs) recommended that the curricula emphasize the need to get medical help for people "displaying a group of symptoms, such as severe agitation, hyperactivity, confusion, intense paranoia, and hallucinations, that appear suddenly but which have short duration and require immediate attention." The SMEs also recommended moving away from using the term "excited delirium" in an effort to better reflect how this condition is addressed at the national level.

The textbook states that "if you recognize these symptoms, it is important to get the patient help. Patients experiencing these symptoms need verbal calming, rapid de-escalation, and possibly medical treatment. Remove excess stimuli by turning off lights and sirens. Possible containment in a controlled and safe environment can ensure safety for everyone while the incident runs its course or prior to EMS arrival."

The steps described in the textbook are recommendations, not mandated procedures. The basic recruit training program provides foundational knowledge. In-depth training on any policies and procedures should be done at the agency level. Each encounter and response is situation-specific, and officers should always follow their specific agency's policies.

If you have any questions, please contact Training and Research Manager Garrett Riggs at GarrettRiggs@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8648.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission