CODE 5150

I. AUTHORITY:

Pursuant to Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, a 72 hour detention for psychiatric evaluation may be obtained for a patient who, as a result of a mental disorder, is either:

1. *A danger to himself, or*
2. *A danger to others, or*
3. *Gravely disabled*

II APPLICATION:

This policy defines the procedure for administering a 5150 to detain a patient.

III. DEFINITION:

Gravely disabled*" means a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental disorder, is unable to provide for his basic personal needs for food, clothing, and shelter .... term does not include mentally retarded persons, Section 5008 Welfare and Institution Code.*

*"**Other designated person**" means a specific person assigned 5150 authority by the chief of the division of the Orange County Mental Health.*

IV. PROCEDURE:

1. Evaluate patient and determine need for detention.

2. Notify peace officer or "other designated person" who has the authority to institute a 5150 code. This person will evaluate the patient's circumstances and sign the detention application.

   Note: A 5150 cannot be remotely ordered over the radio. The person detaining the patient must make an actual evaluation of the patient at the scene.

3. If the patient has any emergency medical problems and/or injuries, the base hospital (BH) should be contacted. In this situation, the BH will advise if the patient should be left with the police or escorted by an EMT-P to the appropriate paramedic receiving center.

4. If the patient does not have any emergency medical problem (other than his mental disorder) and BH contact is not necessary, the patient may be left in the supervision of the police.

Italicized Text Identifies Quotations from an Authority Outside the Orange County EMS

Approved: