

ATTACHMENT "F" – "NO HOSTAGE" POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-18-89

REVISED:

08-06-90, 12-25-94, 05-06-96, 09-01-99

APPROVED BY: Sheriff R. Pierce

AUTHORITY: Title 15, Section 1029(a)(6)(B) and P.C. 236.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures which provide for the resolution of a hostage-taking incident while preserving the safety of staff, public, inmates, and hostages, and maintaining facility security.

POLICY:

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department Detention Bureau maintains a **NO HOSTAGE FACILITY** and will not consider bargaining with hostage takers for ANY reason.

It is the policy of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Detention Bureau that once any staff member is taken hostage, they immediately lose their authority and any orders issued by that person will not be followed regardless of their rank or status.

It is the policy of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Detention Bureau that the primary responsibility of all staff members in a hostage situation is to protect every person involved, if possible, from serious injury or death.

PROCEDURES:

I. DEFINITION

HOSTAGE SITUATION: any staff member, citizen or inmate held against their will by another person for the purpose of escape, monetary gain or any reason which may place an individual in danger of losing life or suffering serious injury.

II. NOTIFICATIONS, CONTAINMENT AND CONTROL OF THE SITUATION

- A. Emergency procedures and notifications shall be implemented as per Emergency Planning procedures (B-101/FILE: EMERGENCY).
- B. Additionally, the Watch Commander will notify the Patrol Watch Commander and apprise them of the incident. The Patrol Watch Commander may be requested to activate the established Department Hostage Negotiation Team, outside support agencies, equipment, personnel and dispatch a detective to the scene for the crime report.

III. DURING NEGOTIATIONS

- A. While at the scene, the Hostage Negotiation Team members will conduct all verbal or written communications between the hostage taker(s) and the Incident Commander. The Hostage Negotiation Team will immediately notify the Incident Commander of any changes in the following situations:
 - 1. Hostage status
 - 2. Incident changes and developments
 - 3. Hostage taker(s) demands
 - 4. Any and all pertinent information concerning the incident
- B. Staff members at the scene not actively involved with negotiations will not act or speak out to the hostage taker(s) or hostages.
- C. The Incident Commander, in conjunction with the Bureau Commander, will formulate a plan to take the necessary actions, using the appropriate force, to terminate the hostage situation in the event negotiations fail. Hostage safety will be of paramount concern.

“YOU ARE ENTERING A NO HOSTAGE FACILITY. EMPLOYEES WILL NOT RECOGNIZE HOSTAGES FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES OR PERMIT INMATES OR OTHERS TO USE HOSTAGES TO ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY. PERSONS ENTERING THIS FACILITY MAY BE SUBJECT TO SEARCH.