

**FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**SOP NUMBER: 706
SUBJECT: ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY**

I. PURPOSE

To provide a policy for the apprehension of anyone escaping the custody of Court Security Branch personnel.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office to safely and securely keep all persons remanded to the Sheriff's custody.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Should an escape occur from the custody of Court Security personnel, the deputy who is in charge of the prisoner will immediately give pursuit and broadcast by radio "Sheriff EIN ___ I have an escape from location." Broadcast description and name of subject if known, clothes they are wearing, the direction of travel, also whether or not they are armed.
- B. Court Security Deputies in the two closest courtrooms who are without prisoners will respond to assist and broadcast that information.
- C. Court Security Personnel with the assistance of other deputies or police officers will seal off the area.
- D. The Security Second Lieutenant of the Court where the escape occurs will take command until the arrival of the Commander or Assistant Commander of Court Services Division, who will be advised of the overall situation and assume command. At the same time a Chief Deputy and Sheriff will be advised along with the Internal Affairs Investigator, the Commander, Confinement Division, and the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC).
- E. Should the subject evade pursuit, but is believed to be in the building, DPSC will be notified to send for K-9 assistance.
- F. The outside perimeter will be secured by police and Sheriff's deputies and a systematic room by room, floor by floor search will be conducted, each room to be evacuated and locked after it is searched.
- G. ADC records will be checked for full information on the escapee, to include a photograph.
- H. A command post for the coordination of the search will be set up and a set of floor plans will be utilized as an aid in the search.
- I. Internal movement of all prisoners within the Courthouse involved will cease unless otherwise directed by a Judge to continue. The Judges will be notified of the situation before they render this decision.
- J. In the event an escape occurs and the subject gains immediate egress from the building, steps A, B & D will be followed. In addition, the officer in charge will:
 - 1. Notify the DPSC by telephoning 911 and advise them of the situation. Request they notify Fairfax City Police, Vienna Town Police and George Mason University Police. Give them any pertinent information known at the moment such as description of escapee, clothing, last known direction of travel, any possible

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vehicles involved, the number of deputies involved in the pursuit, and their last known location.

2. Obtain full information on the escapee from ADC including a photograph, whether they are a convicted felon, what charges are pending, last known address and addresses of relatives and friends and any information that would aid in their recapture. Contact the DPSC and advise them of this information for additional broadcast.
 3. If radio contact with pursuing deputies can be maintained and they have lost sight of the escapee, have them join with the closest police unit and continue the search until such time as they are needed by the officer in charge.
- K. Any media information requests will be referred to the Public Information Officer and/or a Chief Deputy Sheriff.
- L. Should the escapee remain at large into the following business day, full information of the incident will be passed on to all Court Services Deputies. Deputies who work in areas where the subject may appear must remain alert.

IV. DEFINITION

The term escape from custody is to flee the lawful custody of a deputy with or without force or violence.



**STACEY A. KINCAID
SHERIFF**

**01/01/00
DATE APPROVED**

**05/11/98
EFFECTIVE DATE**

Revised: October 2007, July 2009, April 2016