

**CHAPTER 13**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE VEHICLE RESTRAINT PROCEDURES**  
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## CHAPTER 13

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE VEHICLE RESTRAINT PROCEDURES

#### 1. GENERAL.

a. Background. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) field offices periodically process registration requests that contain Department of Justice (DOJ) vehicle restraints that are commonly referred to as "DOJ Stops." Department of Justice Stops are coded into three categories and may be placed upon a vehicle for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Stop Code "A" indicates the person(s) associated with the vehicle may be armed and dangerous.

(2) Stop Code "W" indicates the person(s) associated with the vehicle may be wanted.

(3) Stop Code "F" indicates the vehicle is reported as being used in the commission of a felony.

b. Policy. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) shall respond to DMV field offices and provide appropriate law enforcement services whenever the local law enforcement agency is unavailable or refuses to respond.

#### 2. DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Response Procedures. If the local law enforcement agency is unavailable or refuses to respond, the CHP shall respond to calls for law enforcement services at DMV field offices and conduct thorough investigations.

(1) Area commanders are responsible for developing standard operating procedures (SOP) specific to their Area for responding to DOJ Stops at DMV field offices. The SOP shall be consistent with identified needs and available departmental resources.

(2) When a CHP communications center (CC) receives a telephone call from DMV regarding a DOJ Stop, the person receiving the call shall verify that the appropriate local law enforcement agency has been notified and is either unavailable or refuses to respond. If the local law enforcement agency has not been notified, the caller shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. If the local law enforcement agency has been notified and is either unavailable or refuses to respond, the CHP shall respond. The CC will then

obtain all relevant suspect/vehicle information. The CC will obtain the reporting party's name and call back number, and attempt to keep the reporting party on the telephone to ensure current suspect(s) information/location is available for responding officers.

(3) A minimum of two uniformed CHP officers should be dispatched to investigate any DOJ Stop at a DMV field office. The closest available units should be dispatched to the incident. The responding officer(s) shall request the reason for the DOJ Stop and request a subject check of the possible suspects at DMV.

(4) Responding officers should coordinate their response, taking into account the possibility of the suspect vehicle and additional suspects waiting in the DMV parking lot or on adjacent roadways. Officers should also be alert to the possibility of additional suspects among the facility patrons within the DMV office lobby.

(5) Officers shall consider their safety, the safety of DMV employees, the safety of the general public, and the potential threat of large crowds when determining their approach and tactics.

(6) Officers should also consider the fact the suspect(s) may be an innocent purchaser or registered owner.

(7) Officers shall conduct a complete investigation and take appropriate action to resolve the situation.

b. Documentation. All Safety Services Program (SSP) related activities shall be recorded on the appropriate departmental documents.

(1) All responses to, and investigations of, DOJ Stops at DMV field offices shall be documented in writing. Written documentation shall include, at a minimum, entry on the CHP 415, Daily Field Record (refer to Highway Patrol Manual 40.71, CHP 415 User's Manual).

(2) A STD. 99, Report of Crime or Criminally Caused Property Damage on State Property, and at least one of the following reports shall be completed if a crime has occurred on state property, stolen property is recovered, and/or an arrest is made by the CHP:

(a) CHP 216, Arrest-Invstigation Report.

(b) CHP 202, Driving Under the Influence Arrest-Investigation Report.

(c) CHP 555, Traffic Collision Report.

(d) CHP 729, Uniform Crime Report.

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