



Town of Stow
POLICE DEPARTMENT
305 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
(978) 897-4545
FAX (978) 897-3692



Michael Sallese
Chief of Police

General Order # 2022-03

SUBJECT: Prisoner Watch Call Out	ISSUE October 13, 2022 DATE:
	EFFECTIVE DATE: October 13, 2022
	REVISION OR EXPIRATION DATE: Until modified
TO: All Department Personnel	

To help ensure that prisoners or those who are held in Stow Police Custody receive the proper treatment, and supervision a Prisoner Watch Program has been established. The Stow Police Department will utilize Prisoner Watch Personnel, formally known as matrons, to help ensure that those in custody are safe, and policy and procedure 3.01, 3.03, and 3.04 are followed.

The Prisoner Watch will be a resource for the department to utilize. The Prisoner Watch person can be called out, when a subject who is in custody longer than 2 hours is expected.

Officers are expected to complete the booking process for arrest and protective custody then call for bail or start the protective custody time. Once a bail time has been established or protective custody time starts, the arresting officer will have the option to call in extra resources to watch the prisoner, if in custody time is expected to be over 2 hours. An example is a non-bailable warrant, domestic violence arrest and the 6-hour hold. These are some examples and are not limiting.

If a Prisoner Watch is required, Full Time officers will be offered the opportunity first. If after the prisoner watch shift is offered for 15 minutes, and no full-time officers respond or all full-time officers refuse/non-available, then the Prisoner Watch List will be called and offered. If no Prisoner Watch personnel accept the shift after 15 minutes, then part time officers will be offered the watch shift. Due to the unpredictable of arrest, this process can be re-evaluated through the time someone is in custody. For example, an individual who is in custody for days, without being transported to the "Safe Keep" program in Billerica.

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If two officers are working, and no response from the call out, then one will be assigned to prisoner watch. To maintain the safety of the prisoner and the town, full time officers maybe ordered in and assigned to either patrol or prisoner watch. The role of the ordered-in officer will be dictated as to the circumstances of situation. This is expected to be used only in rare instances when one officer is working a shift and is expected to cover calls for service as well as prisoner watch.

Dispatchers are not prisoner watchers, unless one officer is on duty and needs to respond to a call for service or emergency call while a prisoner is in custody, then 30 minute video check and if necessary intercom check will be completed, until the officer returns or a prisoner watch is in place.