

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION/INTERPRETATION

TO:	Name and Title: Jannis Conselyea, Program Bureau Chief	FROM:	Name and Title: Dave Sutinen
	Organizational Unit: DPHHS, DSD, DDP		Organizational Unit: Quality Assurance Director, Quality Life Concepts.
	Address: PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59620		Address: PO Box 2506, Great Falls, MT 59403

1. TYPE OF REQUEST: Follow-up to Verbal Request - Date of Verbal Request: [Click here to enter text.](#) Written Request

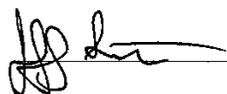
2. STATEMENT OF QUESTION OR ISSUE: We are requesting clarification of the following situation. A staff member described a situation where a person receiving services and in his care, suffered a heart attack. The staff member was trained and certified in full CPR—chest compressions and rescue breaths. He began performing life saving measures including both chest compressions and rescue breaths. 911 was summoned. The first responding individual was a police officer. The officer informed the staff that they were doing compressions only CPR. The staff volunteered to provide rescue breaths, but the police officer was adamant—compression only was sufficient.

Do the police officer’s instructions to perform hands only CPR supersede state and agency policy? When faced with choosing to disregard one’s training or to disregard instructions from a law officer what are staff to do?

References:

3. ANSWER: If the law enforcement officer answered the call and informed staff he/she was present to assume custody of the individual and to perform CPR then the law enforcement officer would be the authority in charge and make the decisions regarding the medical care for the individual. If the law enforcement officer arrived on the scene and when asked by staff if they were assuming custody and the law enforcement officer replied “no”, then staff would continue to provide full CPR per state policy until the EMT staff arrived to assume custody and make the medical decisions for the individual.

References:

Approved and Issued by:  Program Director

Date: 1-7-12

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