

## Hostages

### 821.1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance to those who, during their shift, become involved in a hostage situation. A hostage situation is unpredictable and potentially deadly. The probation officer's role is to prevent escalation of the situation while maintaining control until the appropriate law enforcement agency responds to the scene.

### 821.2 RESPONSIBILITIES:

- I. Communication, control and containment are important elements in dealing with a hostage situation. The officer should utilize the following:
  - A. Advise dispatch of the following:
    1. Call for code 33, request law enforcement back up.
    2. Number of subjects.
    3. Number of hostage(s). If the hostage is another probation officer.
    4. Weapon(s) involved.
    5. Mental state of suspect(s).
    6. Description of subject(s) and hostage(s).
    7. Exact locations of all individuals involved.
  - B. As each situation is unique, the decision to open, maintain, disengage in a dialogue with the subject(s) should be each individual officer's decision, with the goal of not escalating the incident as well as to buy time until the local law enforcement agency arrives.
  - C. Negotiation should be avoided with the subject(s) and should be left to the trained hostage negotiation team.
  - D. Secure the scene/area to restrict the subject(s) access to the outside help, weapons or additional hostages.
  - E. If an officer is taken hostage, law enforcement experience has shown that the danger to an officer is not reduced by surrendering his/her weapon upon demand. Surrendering his/her weapon might mean giving away his/her only chance for survival; therefore, the officer should use every tactical tool at his/her disposal to not surrender his/her weapon.
  - F. If an officer is covering a hostage situation he/she shall not surrender his/her weapon.