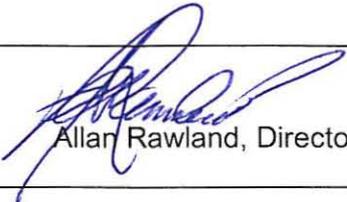


**County of San Bernardino
Department of Behavioral Health**

Possession of a Weapon Procedure

Effective Date 7/94
Revision Date 03/23/10



Allan Rawland, Director

Purpose To provide a protocol for Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) staff on how to respond to clients or any other person in possession of a weapon on DBH premises.

Responding to Weapon Possession DBH staff are not permitted to accept weapons. When responding to anyone who brings or is in possession of a weapon on DBH premises, staff shall follow the steps below:

If...	Then...
A person is known to have a weapon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report the possession to the Clinic Supervisor and security personnel immediately • Clinic Supervisor will request security personnel escort the person from the facility • Clinic Supervisor will arrange to document the incident in the chart, if the individual is a client • Clinic Supervisor shall call law enforcement • Clinic Supervisor will follow the Special Incident Reporting Procedure – Client Related, if the individual is a client or report via the Unusual Occurrence/Incident Report if the person is not a client • Clinic Supervisor will report the incident to the Director’s Office for review and service termination consideration
Treatment is in progress for a client when the weapon is discovered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment session shall be immediately terminated • Treating staff member will discreetly report the discovery to the Clinic Supervisor and security personnel

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Possession of a Weapon Procedure, Continued

Responding to Weapon Possession (continued)

If...	Then...
Treatment is in progress for a client when the weapon is discovered (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinic Supervisor will call law enforcement • Clinic Supervisor will call security to escort the client in possession of a weapon from the facility • Treating staff member will document the incident in the chart • Clinic Supervisor will follow the Special Incident Reporting Procedure – Client Related • Clinic Supervisor will report the incident to the Director’s Office for review and service termination consideration
The person refuses to comply with security personnel to leave the premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinic Supervisor or designee is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure clinic safety, including the removal of bystanders ○ Ensure local law enforcement is or has been immediately contacted

Prior Tarasoff Threat and Possession of Weapon

In accordance with Tarasoff, clients who have made a serious threat of physical violence against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims, are prohibited from having in his/her possession any firearms or any other deadly weapon for a period of six (6) months following the date law enforcement was notified of the Tarasoff threat.

If a client meeting this criteria possesses a weapon, law enforcement must be notified immediately by a licensed psychotherapist, as defined by Evidence Code 1010 (a) to (e), in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code 8105 (c).

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Possession of a Weapon Procedure, Continued

Termination of Services The following steps shall be taken regarding termination of services:

Step	Action
Upon receipt of an incident report pertaining to a client possessing a weapon	The applicable Deputy Director (DD) will make a recommendation to the Director or designee whether to terminate services.
Upon receipt of the recommendation	The Director or designee will render a decision and notify the applicable DD and Program Manager (PM).
If it is determined that services will be terminated	The Director's Office shall send the Termination Letter no later than three (3) business days after the decision is made.

References California Hospital Association. (2009). *Consent Manual: A Reference for Consent and Related Health Care Law*. Sacramento, California: California Hospital Association.
California Penal Code, Sections 171b, 7512, 12027, 12071.1 and 12071.4
Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 8100 and 8105

Related Policy or Procedure County of San Bernardino Policy Manual No. 09-08: [Violence and Threats in the Workplace - Zero Tolerance Policy](#)
DBH Standard Practice Manual SFT7010: [Possession of a Weapon Policy](#)
DBH Standard Practice Manual SFT7023: [Assaultive Behavior Plan Policy](#)
DBH Standard Practice Manual SFT7015: [Threats of Assault on DBH Staff Policy](#)
DBH Standard Practice Manual SFT7016: [Special Incident Reporting Procedure – Client Related](#)