

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEMS
SUBJECT

DATE: March 1, 2005

NO: M-6

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: **Vial of Life**
Medic-Alert

I. POLICY

Police Officers should be alert for information sources pertaining to persons who may be injured or may have been stricken in some way physically. Such sources include a "Medic-Alert" bracelet or necklace, and a "Vial of Life."

II. PROCEDURE

A. Vial of life

1. This is a program operated by the San Joaquin County Department of Aging. It is administered by the Information and Assistance Program in conjunction with the San Joaquin Pharmacists Association, and KAPPA PSI Pharmaceutical Fraternity, and is countywide. (Any questions contact the Information and Assistance Program; their number can be found in the Info/Index file).
 - a. Senior Citizens can record pertinent medical information about themselves, including names of doctors and addresses and telephone numbers, and store this in a vial inside their refrigerator or medicine cabinet. The vial will usually be located in the upper right-hand corner of either the refrigerator, or the medicine cabinet.
 - b. The location of the vial will be noted on a large, brightly colored yellow and black sticker located on the exterior of the refrigerator or medicine chest. The vial itself will have another yellow and black sticker on it.
2. Police personnel may have occasion to be first on the scene when a problem arises and may be able to use the information.
3. The vial should accompany the injured or unconscious person to the hospital.
4. Questions or inquiries regarding the Vial of Life should be referred to the Community Services Section.

B. Medic-Alert

1. This program provides 24-hour information on persons with a hidden medical problem. It is designed to prevent tragic mistakes in the course of administering aid to persons who might have allergies or other hidden medical problems.
2. It is essential that all personnel make it a practice to check the wrist and neck of an unconscious person or a person that appears intoxicated or appears to have some other unknown medical problem, to determine whether the individual is wearing a Medic-Alert emblem.

- a. The emblem will have inscribed upon it the person's problem, issued serial number, and the telephone number of the Medic-Alert central file. This number may be called at any hour at no expense for a background medical history of the individual.
- b. The officer will notify the Telecommunications Center of the Medic-Alert emblem and state the problem(s) of the person. This information will be forwarded to Fire Department Dispatch via the direct ring down line.
 - (1) The Telecommunications Center will make the Medic-Alert information known to Fire Dispatch at the time of initial call, or as soon thereafter as possible.