

Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department

Children and Pets on EMS Scenes

2017

Purpose: To establish guidelines for department personnel when confronted with children and/or pets of patients who are the responsibility party.

Policy/Procedure

The Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department (CTVFD) recognizes the fact that during EMS responses children and pets may be involved. It is also recognized that at times that children and pets may not be able to be transported with the patient. It is the goal of the CTVFD to ensure safety and security for children and pets of our patients as well as the mental wellbeing of the patient and dependent. This policy shall address the patients as the parent, legal guardian or caregiver of the child, those with disability or elderly, and owner or responsible person of the pet. Discretion of the officer or OIC shall be used with in these guidelines to secure care for dependents or pets. Customer service shall also be used as guide.

In this policy the term “dependent” shall refer to those that the patient is the caregiver. These include Children under the age of 18, the mentally or physically disabled, and the elderly.

It is the policy regarding patient dependents:

- a. When possible and the conditions warrant it, an attempt to transport the dependent with the patient shall be made in safe manor.
- b. Dependents of the patient that cannot be transported with the patient shall not be left without a responsible adult unless the patient is comfortable in doing so.
 - i. If the patient is not comfortable in leaving the dependent the crews shall remain on scene until another caregiver arrives.
 - ii. If the patient is unable to state wishes, the crews shall remain on scene until care can be provided for the dependent.
- c. No child under the age of 18 shall be left on scene outside of the patients home in a public place until the following conditions are met:
 - i. Police assume the responsibility of the child
 - ii. An adult relative assumes the responsibility of the child with the permission of the patient.
 - iii. A teacher or coach of the child assumes the responsibility of the child with permission of the patient.
 - iv. A known person of the patient, whether a neighbor, friend or companion, and the patient agrees may assume responsibility of the child.
 - v. If the above conditions cannot be met the crews are to remain with the child until one of the above can be met.

It is the policy regarding pets:

- a. An attempt shall be made not to transport pets with patient.
- b. If a pet must be transported with the patient the following conditions shall be met:
 - i. Safety of the crew and patient shall be ensured.
 - ii. The receiving hospital shall be notified prior to arrival.
- c. For pets in the patients' home, crews shall ensure safety and properly secure the pet.
- d. For pets in a public area, the crew shall properly secure the pet until one of the following conditions is met.
 - i. Law enforcement assumes the responsibility of the pet.
 - ii. A relative of the patient assumes the responsibility of the pet with agreement of the patient.
 - iii. A known person of the patient whether a neighbor, friend or companion and the patient agrees, may assume responsibility of the pet.
 - iv. Animal control assumes the responsibility of the pet.
- e. At no time shall a pet be brought back to CTVFD property.

May 26, 2010

Revised February 8, 2017

Kyle E. Miller
Fire Chief
Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department

Date: _____