

Number: DHS-PT-05-008

Issue Date: 06/28/2005

Authorized Signature _____

Topic: Agency-wide Policy

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New Policy
 Policy Change
 Policy Clarification
 Executive Letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual Update
 Other: _____

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Policy/Rule Title:	Unauthorized Patient Leave Communications		
Policy/Rule Number(s):	AS-010-004	Release No:	Ver. 1.0
Effective Date:	06/17/2005	Expiration:	
Web Address:	http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/admin/opa/120_002.htm		

Discussion/Interpretation: The policy allows the Oregon Department of Human Services to follow a consistent statewide policy for publicly reporting unauthorized leaves of patients and residents from its three State Hospital campuses in Salem, Pendleton, and Portland, the Eastern Oregon Training Center, and state-operated group homes. This policy is necessary to avert a serious and imminent threat to the safety of the public when a patient is on unauthorized leave; to avert a serious and imminent threat to the safety of the patient who is on unauthorized leave; to inform law enforcement about the missing person; and to warn the public or identify a concern for the missing patient’s welfare by issuing public notice to help secure the patient’s return to care, safety, and treatment.

Implementation/Transition Instructions: DHS Public Affairs, working with the appropriate DHS staff, notifies law enforcement and the news media when a patient or resident is determined to be on unauthorized leave from one of Oregon’s three state hospital campuses or from a state-operated group home and that the hospital or group home has a reasonable belief that such notification is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Training/Communication Plan: This policy transmittal provides formal announcement of the policy. No training is planned or required.

Local/Branch Action Required:

Central Office Action Required: Respond to questions or concerns, review the policy and procedures annually and update as necessary.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing Instructions: No paper copies are distributed for filing. DHS Agency-wide policies are located on the DHS web site at <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/admin/>

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

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