



Section 1/300 ♦ Police and the Community		
1 / 307	Social Service / Diversion Programs	10/26/05
Accreditation Standards	1.1.3	

**1 / 307.05 GENERAL**

The Laurel Police Department and its employees, as part of the agency’s Mission Statement believe in, foster, and support teamwork to resolve community problems. Members of the agency will treat everyone with respect and dignity in an unbiased manner. Additionally, the agency’s core beliefs include:

- Close To The People
- Respect Every Person
- Prevention Is Better Than a Cure
- Behind Every Incident Lies a Problem

For these reasons, the Laurel Police Department recognizes the importance of social service programs aimed at helping the citizens of the Laurel area, and proactively dealing with the problems of gang violence and juvenile delinquency.

**1 / 307.10 AGENCY ROLE**

The Laurel Police Department does not have adequate resources to maintain a principal role in dedicated social service diversion programs or other criminal justice diversion programs. The main role of the agency, therefore, will be that of referral and participation in County and State programs.

When a juvenile or adult is ordered to perform community service as a condition of his/her probation, the Laurel Police Department will participate in this criminal justice diversion program by permitting the individual to complete his/her community service hours in the Laurel Police facility as deemed appropriate by the Commander of the Patrol Services Division, the liaison for this program. This type of program allows an individual to recognize the impact of his/her actions on the community and participate in making that community a better place.

Additionally, juveniles may be required to participate in the Police Activities League (P.A.L.) as a condition of their probation. P.A.L. is targeted toward “at risk youth” and allows youths who might otherwise spend their free time in illegal, self-destructive or gang activities to participate in supervised, healthy, educational pursuits. Such participation will require that the juvenile meet all conditions of membership in P.A.L., including signing the P.A.L. Participant Contract.

**1 / 307.15 REFERRALS**

During the course of his/her daily patrol activities, an officer may be made aware of social service issues relating to a citizen in the City of Laurel. Such issues may include, but are not limited to: mental health, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, juvenile delinquency and gang related activities. Upon receiving such information the officer should offer the appropriate referral - a brochure or the telephone number of an agency, program or individual are the preferable means of referral. For problems with children at risk, officers should refer individuals to the Community Liaison Officer, who can provide specific information relating to the P.A.L. program.

**1 / 307.20 SAMPLE REFERRAL OPTIONS**

- Community Liaison Officer / P.A.L.
- Prince George’s County Department of Social Services
- Laurel-Beltsville Oasis Youth Services Bureau (administered by Prince George’s County Health Department, Division of Addictions and Mental Health)
- Other Prince George’s County mental health agencies

**END OF ORDER**