



## SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff*

*Rich Williams, Undersheriff*

March 9, 2026

MaryAnne Pintar, Board Chairperson  
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board  
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 251  
San Diego, CA 92101

### **CLERB POLICY RECOMMENDATION: 21-125**

Dear Chairperson Pintar,

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of the Sheriff's Office. The San Diego County Sheriff's Office (SDSO) continuously strives to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve, and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

CLERB sent the SDSO the following recommendations, reference CLERB Case #21-125:

1. Update policy, Section J.1 Safety Cells: Definition and Use to read as follows: Every incarcerated person in a safety cell shall be directly observed by sworn staff at random intervals not to exceed 15 minutes between each direct visualization of the incarcerated person. The start time of each security check does not count towards the actual direct visualization of the incarcerated person. Such observations shall be documented on the J-19A form.
2. Specifically ask about food allergies during the intake screening process.

Thank you for your recommendation regarding this issue. Below is the response to your policy recommendation:

Regarding the first recommendation, per SDSO Detention Services Bureau Policy and Procedures (P&P) J.1, incarcerated persons (IPs) may be temporarily placed in a safety cell when they are actively self-harming or assaultive. Book and Release individuals at risk for suicide may be temporarily placed in a safety cell even when not exhibiting active self-harming or assaultive behaviors. Staff closely monitors any IP in a safety cell and documents all checks. Every IP is directly observed by sworn staff at random intervals not to exceed 15 minutes between checks. The current P&P already provides for sworn staff to closely monitor the IP, without changes being necessary.

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Regarding the second recommendation, we agree that incoming IPs should be asked about any allergies, including those to food. No change is needed. Asking about allergies is part of our P&P E.2.1 Receiving Screening. It is conducted by our Medical Services Division. This screening includes obtaining vital signs and weight and an inquiry of the IP's current and past health conditions, and special health needs. This screening is built into the health record and is a standardized set of questions that includes medical history on allergies. We also document it in the "receiving screening" portion of the IP's intake record.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board. Thank you for your service to the citizens of San Diego County and for the recommendation. Our goal is to provide the highest quality public safety service to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

KELLY A. MARTINEZ, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KA' with a flourish, positioned below the typed name.

Joseph Jarjura, Lieutenant  
Division of Inspectional Services

KAM: JJ