

	<b>UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>GENERAL NO. 29</b>		
	<b>FOOT PURSUIT</b>	EFFECTIVE DATE <b>9/9/09</b>	REVISED/REVIEWED DATE <b>12/16/15</b>
		CALEA STANDARDS	KACP STANDARDS <b>30.1</b>

## I. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this order is to provide the policy during foot pursuits to ensure the safety of personnel while at the same time facilitating the safe apprehension of suspects during a foot pursuit for The University of Kentucky Police Department.

## II. **POLICY**

The officer must evaluate the risk involved to themselves, the suspect and the community versus the benefit of continuing the foot pursuit. While the risks involved with foot pursuits towards the general public is much less than in vehicle pursuits, the inherent risks to the officer is somewhat greater.

The majority of foot pursuits involve a one on one situation with the officer and violator. In addition, the officer is more likely to place themselves in a dangerous situation by following a fleeing person into a wooded area, building, structure, confined space or other isolated area. The officer is often less aware of his/her exact location, as he/she is focused on the fleeing person, making it difficult for other officers to locate the officer to render assistance in a timely manner.

A police officer has the authority, at all times, to attempt the stop of any person suspected of having committed any criminal offense or other violation. It is clear that while it is the officer who initiates the stop, it is the violator who initiates the foot pursuit. The officer's decision to pursue should always be undertaken with an awareness of the degree of risk to which they expose themselves and others. The officer must weigh the need for immediate apprehension against the risk created by the foot pursuit.

## III. **DEFINITIONS**

### A. **FOOT PURSUIT**

A situation in which an officer, on foot chases a suspect in an effort to detain or arrest that individual who he/she has a reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime and who is resisting apprehension by fleeing from the officer.

### B. **SUSPECT**

Includes any individual who a police officer reasonably believes is about to commit, is committing or has committed an offense or poses an imminent threat to the safety of the public, other officers or themselves.

### C. **CONTACT/COVER**

It is a tactical practice of having two or more officers working together during a foot pursuit. The officers work as a team utilizing direct or indirect communication methods to coordinate their efforts, remain aware of the locations of officers and suspects, and keep abreast of the status of the pursuit.

## IV. **PROCEDURE**

The primary purpose of this policy is to secure a balance between the protection of the lives and safety of the public and police officers, and law enforcement's duty to enforce the law and apprehend violators. Since there are numerous situations which arise in law enforcement that are unique, it is impossible for this policy or any standard operating procedure to anticipate all possible circumstances. Therefore, this policy is intended to guide a police officer's discretion in matters of foot pursuit.

**A. DECIDING WHETHER TO PURSUE**

Deciding whether to pursue a fleeing person is a critical decision. It is a decision which must be made quickly and under difficult, often unpredictable circumstances. In recognition of the potential risk to public safety and officer safety, police officers who chose not to engage in foot pursuits or chose to terminate an ongoing foot pursuit consistent with this policy will be strongly supported in any subsequent review.

**B. FACTORS IN CONDUCTING THE RISK ASSESSMENT.**

1. Whether the suspect is armed;
2. How serious is the suspect's offense, e.g., does he or she pose a serious threat to the community if allowed to escape?
3. Officer acting alone;
4. Backup is not available in a timely manner;
5. Officer pursuing more than one suspect;
6. Officer not in physical condition to pursue a subject on foot;
7. Location:
  - a. Nature of area, e.g., residential, commercial, freeway, train tracks, which impacts the safety of all those who may be affected by the foot pursuit.
  - b. Conditions of structures: abandoned and condemned.
  - c. Environmental factors: weather conditions or darkness.
  - d. Area of pursuit is hostile to law enforcement personnel.
8. Ability to apprehend the subject at a later time. e.g., identity is known.
9. Communications Issues
  - a. Officers familiarity with location-able to identify subject's location with accuracy during pursuit.
  - b. Radio frequency and coverage-Is the officer in an area where radio coverage may fail?

**C. PURSUING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The decision to initiate or continue a foot pursuit requires weighing the need to apprehend the suspect against the degree of risk to which the officer and others are exposed to as a result of the pursuit.
2. Once an officer decides to engage in a foot pursuit, the officer must immediately notify communications and attempt to provide the following information:
  - a. Reason for pursuit.
  - b. Location-Continuing responsibility.
  - c. Direction of travel.
  - d. If known, the identification of the suspect or description of suspect.
  - e. Whether suspect has a weapon.
  - f. Coordinating with other officers to establish perimeter for containment.
  - g. Any other information that may be helpful in safely terminating the pursuit or resolving the incident.
3. The primary (initiating) officer will immediately, directly or indirectly, via Communications coordinate with secondary officers to establish a perimeter in the area to contain the suspect. Generally, the primary officer should not try to overtake the fleeing violator. Rather, he/she should keep the violator in sight until sufficient manpower is available to take the suspect into custody.
4. In the event the suspect enters a building, structure, confined space, wooded or otherwise isolated area, the primary officer shall stand by, radio his/her location and await the arrival of assisting officers and a supervisor to establish a perimeter around the area. Officers should not pursue suspects into any of the above listed areas alone. At this point, the incident should be considered a barricaded or otherwise non-compliant suspect. Consideration should be given to the use of specialized units such as canine or assisting agency resources (e.g. aerial support, Emergency Response Units (ERU), with supervisor input and control.

**D. ASSISTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Assisting officers should work with the pursuing officer by attempting to contain the subject. Assisting officers

should respond to the area ahead of the subject and the pursuing officer. If the subject is apprehended, then the assisting officers should respond to the arresting officer's location as necessary.

2. Under no circumstances shall a UK Police officer enter into an ongoing foot pursuit with a neighboring agency unless directly requested by said agency. Due to the fact that the UK Police Department does not have direct communications with neighboring agencies while on foot, (Lexington Metro or Fayette County Sheriff) entering into an ongoing pursuit could endanger the pursuing officers and or the UK Police Officer.

**NOTE:** This does not preclude the UK Police officer from providing support by setting up a perimeter if the pursuit enters UK jurisdiction. Additionally, the UK Police supervisors and Communications officers should monitor Lexington Metro radio traffic and be aware of foot pursuits in UK's immediate area.

## E. GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS

1. The pursuing officers shall terminate if so instructed to do so by a supervisor.
2. Unless there are exigent circumstances, such as an immediate threat to the safety of officers or civilians, officers should not engage in or continue a foot pursuit under the following circumstances:
  - a. While acting alone. If exigent circumstances warrant, the lone officer should consider keeping the subject in sight from a safe distance and coordinate containment.
  - b. Into buildings, structures, confined spaces, or into wooded or otherwise isolated areas without sufficient back up and a supervisor to establish containment of the area.
  - c. If the officer believes the danger to pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension.
  - d. If the officer loses possession of his firearm.
  - e. If the suspect's identity is established where the suspect may be apprehended at a later time and there is no immediate threat to the public or police officers.
  - f. If the suspect's location is no longer known.
  - g. If the loss of communications occurs.
  - h. If there is a person injured during the pursuit and there are not police or medical personnel able to render assistance.
  - i. If the police officer becomes aware of any unanticipated circumstances that substantially increase the risk to public safety inherent in the pursuit.
3. When pursuing officer terminates the pursuit, he/she shall immediately notify Communications and his/her supervisor and provide his/her location.
4. When two or more officers are involved in the foot pursuit:
  - a. They should not separate unless they remain in sight of each other and maintain communications.
  - b. They should allow the lead officer to concentrate on the suspect's actions while the second officer provides back up and maintains contact with communications and other assisting officers.
5. Supervisor Responsibility

Upon becoming aware of a foot pursuit, the supervisor shall decide as soon as possible whether or not the foot pursuit should continue.

The supervisor may allow the foot pursuit to continue if:

  - a. There are at least two officers working in tandem and there is a reasonable belief that the suspect has committed an act that would permit the officer to detain the suspect, or
  - b. There is a reasonable belief that the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the public or other police officers.
  - c. The supervisor shall take command, control and coordination of the foot pursuit as soon as possible. As in any tactical incident, the supervisor must be physically present to assert control of the situation.
  - d. Once the foot pursuit has concluded, the supervisor shall proceed to the terminus (end) of the pursuit to assert post pursuit discipline and control as needed.

6. Communications Responsibility
  - a. Upon being notified that a foot pursuit is in progress, Communications personnel shall immediately report incoming information on the pursuit, the officers involved and the suspect.
  - b. Control all radio communications and clear the radio channels of all non - emergency traffic.
  - c. Coordinate and dispatch backup assistance under the direction of the field supervisor.
7. Documentation

All officers involved shall complete a separate Resistance Report and applicable reports required.

**By order of**



**CHIEF OF POLICE**