

AMENDS OR
SUPERSEDES

DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

G.O.# 4115.00

ALL PRIOR
DIRECTIVES

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PROCEDURAL GENERAL ORDER

EFF. DATE 01/01/93

SUBJECT: HIGH SPEED PURSUIT

INDEX AS: EMERGENCY VEHICLE PURSUIT
FLEEING AND ELUDING
HIGH-SPEED PURSUIT
PURSUIT - HIGH-SPEED
VEHICLE PURSUIT

DISTRIBUTION: All Personnel

POLICY: It is the policy of the Desoto County Sheriff's Office to engage in fleeing and eluding high-speed pursuits in accordance with state laws and then only when the necessity of pursuit outweighs the hazards of the pursuit.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for personnel who engage in fleeing and eluding high speed pursuits.

II. FLEEING AND ELUDING HIGH-SPEED PURSUIITS - GENERAL

A. Any member who becomes involved in a fleeing and eluding high speed pursuit must notify the Communications Dispatcher immediately of the following information:

1. Location
2. Direction of travel
3. Approximate speed
4. Description of the vehicle being pursued
5. Description of the occupants of the vehicle being pursued.
6. Reason for initiating pursuit.

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- B. The responsible on-duty shift supervisor shall be notified, evaluate the information, and promptly determine whether the pursuit is justified or shall be discontinued. The supervisor should consider the following guidelines in his/her decision:
1. Whether the operator of the vehicle is a known fleeing felon.
 2. Whether the pursuit creates a hazard greater than the importance of stopping the violator.
 3. Road and weather conditions.
 4. Traffic and population density congestion in the area.
 5. Mechanical condition of the patrol vehicle.
 6. Number of occupants in the fleeing vehicle.
 7. Whether the safety of the Deputy or any other person is unduly endangered.
 8. At any time the hazards of the pursuit outweigh the necessity of apprehension, the pursuit will be discontinued.
- C. In cases where a supervisor is not on duty, the deputy will advise the dispatcher to attempt to get a supervisor on the phone for authorization. In cases where a supervisor can not be contacted, the deputy shall determine whether the pursuit is justified or should be discontinued, and shall use the established guidelines referenced above in his/her decision. The deputy shall promptly file an appropriate incident report for review by the next on-duty supervisor. If advised to discontinue by a ranking supervisor, the deputy or supervisor involved in the pursuit, will immediately discontinue.
- D. The supervisor, after relaying the decision to the deputy, shall if practical, proceed to the vicinity of the pursuit to lend assistance as needed. At any time, the deputy or the supervisor may discontinue close pursuit. If close pursuit ceases, the deputy may take other actions such as notifying other law enforcement agencies of the violator or maintaining surveillance pursuit. Only in extreme circumstances, with authorization of a supervisor, will more than two (2) department units be involved.

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- E. Other agencies that may be affected by the pursuit shall be notified and if vehicles from other agencies become involved in the pursuit, every effort should be made to limit total participation to no more than three (3) pursuing units. A deputy shall not become involved in a fleeing and eluding high-speed pursuit being conducted by other agencies unless assistance is requested by the other agency and a supervisor has authorized the participation. In the absence of a Supervisor, the deputy will determine whether or not to assist the requesting law enforcement agency using the above criteria in making that determination.
- F. Roadblocks - generally, roadblocks will only be used to stop a fleeing vehicle if authorized by a supervisor. Refer to General Order No. 4040.00 for guidelines concerning the use of roadblocks.