


<b>NORTHAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>Administration &amp; Operations Manual</b>		
<b>Policy: Cruiser Care Pack Program</b>		<b>AOM:O-514</b>
Massachusetts Police Accreditation Standards Referenced:		Issuing Authority <hr/> John D. Cartledge Chief of Police
<b>Dissemination Date:</b> 8/21/2013  <b>Effective Date:</b> 8/21/2013	<b>Amended:</b>  <b>Reviewed:</b> 8/15, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18, 8/19*, 5/24	

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## I. Introductory Discussion

Due to the reactive nature of the calls that officers are dispatched to, they may encounter a child who has or is enduring a traumatic event. This program is designed to assist officers who identify a child under stress from a traumatic event, allowing them to alleviate some of the stress forced upon that child. This policy also establishes guidelines for use and maintenance of donations and dispersal of items designated for the Cruiser Care Pack Program.

## **II. Accepting Donations**

If an officer is provided with an item that someone donates to the Cruiser Care Pack Program, they shall place that item in the designated storage location and notify the officer overseeing the program, as well as the Supply Sergeant for the department.

## **III. Care Packs**

The packs will be located in the trunk of the front line cruisers, as well as the Supervisor's cruiser. Officers who do not have a care pack in their cruiser, but feel the situation is deserving of one, can ask another officer or the Line Sergeant to provide one to their scene. Once an item is used it needs to be replaced as soon as possible in order to ensure the item or items used are replenished and available if needed again.

## **IV. Dispersal of Items**

The items inside the care pack are not for personal use and shall not be used for personal gain. The items inside the care pack are to be utilized to lessen the stress and provide a distraction from the event or events that may be placing traumatic stress of a child. It is up to the officer's discretion what meets the standard of stress that allows for gifting an item or items from the care pack. Once an item is given to a child by an officer, they shall be responsible for replacing the item or items inside the cruiser.

## **V. Documentation**

The officer in charge of the program should be notified of the call so that they can properly document the use and success of the program.