



## Response and Notification Procedures to Suspected "Heroin" Overdose Incidents

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Ridgely Police Department has the responsibility to respond to suspected "Heroin" overdoses within the Town of Ridgely. The Ridgely Police Department is tasked with investigating suspected "Heroin" overdoses, making the appropriate notifications, providing security, providing medical assistance as required, and the prosecution of persons responsible for a suspected "Heroin" overdose.

### II. POLICY

Officers of the Ridgely Police Department will follow the outlined procedures when responding to a suspected "Heroin" overdose investigation.

### III. RIDGELY POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

1. Ensure that the scene is secured;
2. Interview any witnesses on scene;
3. All evidence will be preserved and collected according to department policy. This will include but is not limited to:
  - a. Securing the victim for EMS/deceased body,
  - b. Photographing the scene,
  - c. Collecting CDS, CDS paraphernalia and cellular telephones if present. **Cellular telephones will be seized and forwarded to the Caroline County Drug Task for forensic examination. DO NOT go through the cellular phone or turn off the power. Attempt to seize the charging cord as well.**
  - d. If there is evidence to support a heroin overdose and probable cause exists to prefer charges against the victim of the overdose (i.e. lab results from evidence at the scene), the responding officer shall submit an application to the District Court Commissioner **after consulting with the State's Attorney's Office first.**

**General Order No. 4-8 (Cont.)**

**IV. CAROLINE COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE RESPONSE**

A. If the Victim is NOT deceased:

1. The on call Investigator for the Caroline County Drug Taskforce will be contacted as soon as practicable, only after the responding Ridgely Police Officer has secured the scene and confirmed that it is in fact a suspected heroin overdose.
2. The Caroline County Drug Task Force Investigator will determine if the Task Force will respond to the scene or what action they may want the Ridgely Police Officer to seize while at the scene based on the evidence present.
3. It will be the responsibility of the Caroline County Drug Task Force Investigator assigned to make contact with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) via the Heroin /Fentanyl Hotline (1-844-498-0348) if the heroin is suspected to/or found to contain Fentanyl.
4. If Fentanyl is found to be involved, the Caroline County Drug Task Force will document the incident in the HIDTA "Case Explorer" for intelligence purposes.

B. If the overdose results in a death investigation:

1. The Chief of Police and the Caroline County Drug Task Force Detective will be immediately notified by the Officer or Communications, and he/she *will* make a response to the scene. A joint investigation will be conducted by both entities at that time.
2. It will be the responsibility of the Caroline County Drug Task Force Investigator to make contact with the DEA via the Heroin /Fentanyl Hotline (1-844-498-0348) if the heroin is suspected to/or found to contain Fentanyl.
3. If Fentanyl is found to be involved, the Caroline County Drug Task Force will document the incident in the HIDTA "*Case Explorer*" system for intelligence purposes.