

AP005.6	 Ridgewood Police Department Policies and Procedures
Alternate Care for Arrestee's Dependents	
Effective Date: April 3, 1995	
Attorney General / Bergen County Prosecutor: N.J. Attorney General	
Issuing Authority:	
Accreditation Standards:	
Last Updated: August 22, 2016	

The Ridgewood Police Department will provide persons taken into custody by this Department a reasonable opportunity to arrange for the care of children or persons dependent upon the arrestee for their care, sustenance and supervisions. When the arrestee is unable to arrange for the care of dependent persons, this Department will notify the appropriate Municipal, County, and State agencies of the need for alternate care of the arrestee's dependents. This Department will not take direct responsibility for providing alternate care for the arrestee's dependents.

While the need for alternate care of an arrestee's dependents is too be determined the existence of an arrestee is held in custody or released. Where a summons in lieu of arrest is inappropriate or the taking into custody is required by law, public safety or the safety of the arrestee, the individual should be held until released in accordance with the law. This policy follows guidelines established by the Attorney General of New Jersey and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office.

DEFINITIONS

- **ALTERNATE CARE:** Someone other than the arrestee to care for the arrestee's dependents while in police custody for more than two hours. The alternate care may be provided by a family member, responsible adult friend, or Municipal, County, or State agency.
- **ARRESTEE:** An individual that is in the custody of this Department as required by law, public safety or the safety of the individual.
- **DEPENDENT:** An individual who resides with and/or is dependent on the arrestee for their primary care, sustenance or supervision. The dependent

individual may be a child, handicapped person of any age, elderly person, or a person in need of continued medical care.

ARRESTEE ACCOMPANIED BY DEPENDENTS

Whenever a person is taken into custody by this Department and is accompanied by a child or other person dependent upon the arrestee for care, sustenance, or supervision, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. If another appropriate adult is present with the arrest, the arrestee will be permitted to place the dependent child or dependent person in the care of that adult.
2. If another appropriate adult is not present with the arrestee or refuses custody of the dependent person, the dependent person will be transported to police headquarters. The dependent person may be transported with the arrestee or in a separate vehicle as required by the circumstances. Transportation of the dependent person will be decided by the O.I.C.
3. The arrestee shall be permitted a reasonable opportunity to make arrangements by telephone for alternate care for the dependent. When contact cannot be made by telephone, an officer from this or the appropriate police department shall be assigned to make the necessary notifications.
4. If the arrestee is unable to arrange for alternate care for a dependent, the O.I.C. or arresting officer shall notify the appropriate municipal, county, or state agency of the arrest and the need of alternate care for alternate care.
5. When the arrestee has dependents requiring care, a record is to be made indicating the arrangements for the care of those dependents. The "Arrestee's Dependent Care" form, Appendix A, will be completed by the arresting officer.
 - a. Should the arrestee's dependent be placed in the care of a Municipal, County, or State agency, such as DYFS, the arrestee is to be informed as to the agency taking charge of his or her dependents.
 - b. The address and telephone number of the person, or agency representative, taking charge of the dependent.
 - c. Information on how the arrestee can regain custody of a dependent child or person when released from custody. (Should be provided by the agency representative taking custody of the dependent)

6. The O.I.C. or arresting officer shall contact the appropriate judge as soon as possible for the setting of bail. If the arrestee has dependents requiring care, the judge is to be informed of this and of the arrangements made for the temporary care of those dependents.

ARRESTEE IN CUSTODY LONGER THAN TWO HOURS

Whenever a person is arrested or taken into custody and is likely to be detained **more than TWO hours**, that person shall be questioned as to whether or not any child or other person is dependent **solely** upon the arrestee for primary care, sustenance, or supervision. Consideration must also be given to the following: whether or not the arrestee will be released on bail and/or incarcerated in the County Jail.

*****THE ARRESTEE'S "MIRANDA RIGHTS" MUST BE GIVEN BEFORE ANY QUESTIONING, INCLUDING THE DETERMINATION OF DEPENDENT CARE.**

1. ARRESTING OFFICERS WILL COMPLETE THE "ARRESTEE'S DEPENDENT CARE" FORM, SEE APPENDIX A.
2. If it is determined that the arrestee is the sole provider of care and/or supervision of a dependent, the arrestee shall be permitted a reasonable opportunity to make arrangements by telephone for the alternate care of those dependents.
3. When contact cannot be made by telephone, an officer from this Department shall be assigned to make the necessary notifications, or if necessary, a request shall be made of the law enforcement agency in the Municipality where the individual resides to make the notification.
4. If the arrestee is unable, or unwilling, to make the necessary arrangements for the alternate care of the dependent, the O.I.C. shall notify the appropriate Municipal, County, or State Agency and the need for alternate care.
 - a. Should the arrestee's dependents be placed in the care of a Municipal, County, or State agency, such as DYFS, the arrestee is to be informed as to the agency taking charge of his or her dependents.
 - b. The address and telephone number of the person, or agency representative, taking charge of the dependent.
 - c. Information on how the arrestee can regain custody of a dependent child or person when released from custody. (Should be provided by the agency representative taking custody of the dependent)

5. The O.I.C., or the arresting officer, shall contact the appropriate Judge as soon as possible for the setting of bail. If the arrestee has dependents requiring alternate care, the Judge is to be made aware of this fact.

SUGGESTED STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES FOR ALTERNATE CARE

Department of Children and Families (Formerly DYFS):

Bergen Central LO- #462

240 Frisch Court - 2nd Floor

Paramus, NJ 07652

201-291-0579

866-224-1859

Fax: 201-909-5178

Manager – Haydee Zamora-Dalton

[NJ Department of Children and Families Website](#)

Bergen County Board of Social Services:

218 State Rt 17 N

Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

201-368-4200

[Bergen County Board of Social Services Website](#)

Note: BCBSS is only open M-F (0800-1630hrs, Tues. 0800-2000hrs)