

Victoria Police Manual – Policy Rules

Escapees and absconders

Context

Victoria Police has responsibilities to apprehend persons who have escaped from prison or absconded from the involuntary care of other institutions

Application

Policy Rules are mandatory and provide the minimum standards that employees must apply. Non-compliance with or a departure from a Policy Rule may be subject to management or disciplinary action. Employees must use the **Professional and ethical standards** to inform the decisions they make to support compliance with Policy Rules.

These Policy Rules apply to:

- employees
- supervisors
- Work Unit Managers

Rules and Responsibilities

1. Responsibilities

1.1 *Locating escapees and absconders*

Police have a responsibility to locate and apprehend persons who have escaped from:

- police custody
- from the custody of the DHS or Office of the Correctional Services
- the involuntary care of mental health or disability services institutions; in the case of compulsory patients.

1.2 *Recording and reporting*

Report the following escapees as missing persons according to **VPMG Missing persons** and record them in the Custody module as escapees (where relevant):

- persons who escape from police custody

- prisoners who escape from a prison or from the custody of the DHS, Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner, or the Sheriff
- persons who escape from a Youth Justice Centre (YJC)/Youth Residential Centres (YRC) who are not held in custody for a criminal offence
- compulsory mental health patients or disability clients who abscond from their treatment facility.

1.3 **Arrest Warrant**

When police are notified that a prisoner has escaped from a prison or from the custody of a gaoler, the Work Unit Manager must:

- ensure the immediate circulation of the appropriate LEAP Reports
- arrange for a Charge and Warrant to Arrest [Form 403] to be issued
- ensure that the appropriate reports, together with the Warrant are forwarded to the Warrants and Criminal Records Unit, Records Services Division (RSD) for recording and filing pending the apprehension of the offender.

2. Powers of apprehension

Members must only apprehend escapees or absconders if they have the legal authority. Refer to **VPMG Escapees and absconders** for details of powers.

3. Apprehension

On arrest of an escapee, the arresting member must:

- make arrangements to return the person into custody, complying with any requirements in **VPMG Escapees and absconders**
- where appropriate charge the person and any persons involved in assisting the escapee, having regard to **VPMG Escapees and absconders**
- notify Warrants and Criminal Records Unit and submit supplementary LEAP reports in the normal manner.

Quick Links

- [VPMG Escapees and absconders](#)

Further Advice and Information

For further advice and assistance regarding these Policy Rules, contact your supervisor or local training officer.

Update history

Date of first issue	22/02/10	
Date updated	Summary of change	Force File number
01/07/2014	Minor amendments to terminology to incorporate the revised <i>Mental Health Act 2014</i>	FF-085694