

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Adam Christianson, Sheriff-Coroner

**ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION**

August 15, 2006

Honorable Marie Sovey Silveira  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of Stanislaus County  
P.O. Box 3488  
Modesto, CA 95353

Re: Response to the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury 2005/2006- Final Report

Dear Judge Silveira:

This response is in compliance with Section 933c and 933.05 of the California Penal Code and is made as a response to the recommendations and findings of the Civil Grand Jury 2005-2006, part 06-21.

***Findings***

The Grand Jury finds that all relevant policies and procedures were not followed in providing complainant with necessary and appropriate medical treatment. The Sheriff agrees with these findings.

The Grand Jury finds the existing jail and medical policies and procedures are not adequate due to apparent lack of communication and documentation in providing medical treatment to complainant. The Sheriff agrees with these findings.

The Grand Jury finds there was a lack of quality medical treatment for the complainant. The Sheriff partially agrees with these findings.

***Recommendations***

The arresting officer, upon arrival to jail, should report *any* known medical condition and/or known emergency medical treatment to booking officer/receiving officer who should then report/communicate this important medical information directly to medical staff to avoid any gaps in appropriate medical care and treatment provided to the inmate. The new procedure must consider that fact that written reports are not submitted typically on the same day of the arrest and since medical concerns require timely follow-up and treatment for the inmate, the arresting officer must report medical issues immediately.



***The recommendation will be implemented; the Sheriff's Department will add a question to the medical pre-screening form asking the arresting officer if the arrestee sustained any injuries or received medical treatment during or prior to the arrest process.***

When the jail medical screening form is completed and the clerk/officer has determined that further medical evaluation is necessary by medical staff, jail policy shall make all of the inmate's records from arrest to booking available to medical staff, and to be reviewed by medical staff in a timely manner.

***The recommendation has been implemented; the medical staff is now allowed to read the Probable Cause form and property receipt form when evaluating the arrestee.***

The jail medical screening form (Jail Form 171L) shall include a question about whether any emergency medical treatment was received before arrest or prior to booking. The inquiry should not be limited to only emergency center (e.g. hospital) treatment. This more complete medical history would aid medical staff in providing timely and appropriate medical care for inmates.

***The recommendation will be implemented; the Sheriff's Department will include a question for the arresting officer on the medical pre-screening form about medical treatment.***

Jail personnel shall not violate current jail procedure whereby medication must be delivered to medical to distribute to inmate as needed.

***The recommendation has been implemented; the Sheriff's Department has updated booking and intake staff on the procedure involving arrestee medication.***

The County and CFMG shall improve its medical screening process to include a procedure by which officers will document and advise medical staff of prescribed medication held in custody to ensure inmate's health is not compromised by withholding necessary prescribed medication.

***The recommendation has been implemented; the Sheriff's Department has updated booking, intake and medical staff on the procedure involving arrestee medication.***

CFMG medical staff should address inmate/patient needs and listen to legitimate medical complaints or concerns. CFMG management should consider implementing sensitivity training to medical nursing staff to ensure both quality and humane medical care is provided to inmates in all of the Stanislaus County Correctional Facilities.

***The recommendation will be implemented. California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) will continue to provide training in this area.***

In an effort to ensure quality medical treatment is provided to inmates in all of the Stanislaus County Correctional Facilities, the Sheriff's Department and CFMG medical

staff should establish a complaint process whereby inmates who have a complaint regarding medical treatment may complain to a supervising officer or supervising nurse to investigate and address the inmate's medical concerns within a reasonable period of time.

***The recommendation is already in place. The Sheriff's Department and CFMG medical staff have a grievance procedure that allows inmates to address their medical concerns. The grievance form is given to the nurse coordinator at the appropriate facility and must be answered within 5 business days. The CFMG Program Manager and the Facility Commander review all grievances.***

We will continue to partner with CFMG to provide quality medical treatment to inmates in the Stanislaus County Correctional Facilities. It has been a pleasure to work with the Civil Grand Jury of 2005/2006.

Sincerely,



ADAM CHRISTIANSON, Sheriff-Coroner  
Stanislaus County

cc: Richard W. Robinson, Chief Executive Officer  
Stanislaus County

cc: Ray Simon, Chair  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Grand Jury Office  
Stanislaus County

Lee Lundrigan, Clerk-Recorder  
Stanislaus County