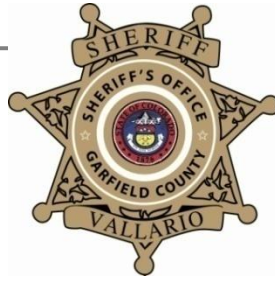


# SHERIFF OF GARFIELD COUNTY

## LOU VALLARIO

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### GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### POLICY / PROCEDURE

### DETENTIONS

#### **SUBJECT: CRIMES AGAINST INMATES**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 01, 2024

#### **POLICY:**

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office has a zero tolerance policy on crimes committed against inmates and as such, all potential criminal violations, beyond those handled as internal jail disciplinary infractions, will be investigated by the Patrol Division. If probable cause exists that a crime has been committed, the perpetrator shall be charged accordingly. In addition, a phone extension and email address shall be maintained for inmates to report any crimes against them.

#### **PURPOSE:**

To provide inmates who are victims of crimes that occur within the detention facility with the same rights and protections afforded to any victim.

#### **METHOD:**

When a Deputy witnesses, or an inmate reports that they are a victim of a crime that was perpetrated on them by either another inmate, or a staff member, the Patrol Division shall be notified to further investigate the allegation.

If probable cause exists that indicates a crime has been committed, the alleged perpetrator shall be criminally charged. Based on the seriousness of the crime, specifically felonies, or major crimes against persons, the perpetrator shall be arrested and booked on those charges. Minor crimes against persons, or property crimes not exceeding the felony level shall be cited with a summons, released back to the detention staff and their copy of the summons shall be placed in their property.

**Detention Staff Responsibilities:** Every effort shall be made to keep the alleged perpetrator and victim separated.

Any medical treatment deemed necessary shall be provided as soon as possible, in conjunction with the criminal investigation. The victim should sign a release of those medical records to be included in the criminal report.

Deputies involved in the incident shall generate all necessary internal reports to accompany the criminal report as well as to be maintained for jail records.

**Internal Disciplinary Process:** Regardless of whether an inmate is criminally charged or not, internal discipline procedures will still apply.

**Reporting Tip Line:** An internal phone extension and email address shall be provided and monitored for inmates who wish to report crimes against them or others. The extension and email address shall be available to inmates throughout the facility as well as posted in the Inmate Handbook.

**False Reporting:** Any inmate found to have intentionally reported a false crime shall be charged with False Reporting, and/or other crimes pertinent to the situation.