



# GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



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SUBJECT: CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM DEFINITIONS			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS:	
CHIEF OF POLICE: FINAL DRAFT			

*This General Police Order has been revised in its entirety*

**PURPOSE:** To define terminology used in the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Policies.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Crisis:** A situation where an individual’s safety and health are threatened by behavioral health challenges, to include mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance use, or overwhelming stressors. A crisis can involve an individual’s perception or experience of an event or situation as an intolerable difficulty that exceeds the individual’s current resources and coping mechanisms and may include unusual stress in their life that renders them unable to function as they normally would, which may make them a danger to self or others.

**Crisis Incident:** An incident involving individuals who are experiencing a crisis that could cause the individual to harm themselves or others through erratic behavior.

**Crisis Intervention:** The emergency and temporary care given to an individual in crisis with the purpose of returning the individual to their level of pre-crisis functioning.

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT):** Specially trained officers in crisis intervention.

**Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator (CIT Coordinator):** An officer of CDP at the rank of Captain or above who is responsible for CDP’s CIT Program. The CIT Coordinator is the point of contact between all behavioral health and crisis intervention issues involving the CDP and the community, including crisis intervention training, reporting, and policies.

**Crisis Intervention Team Program (CIT Program):** A partnership between police, mental and behavioral health agencies, advocates, and the community that seeks to achieve the common goals of safety, understanding, and service to individuals in crisis, those with behavioral health issues, and their families.

**Crisis Intervention Team Stat Sheet (CIT Stat Sheet):** See Attachment A.

**Developmental Disability:** A disability that is characterized by an identified condition such as Autism Spectrum Disorder or Intellectual Disability Disorder that results in functional limitations in areas such as self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction, comprehension, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency.

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**Juvenile:** An individual under the age of 18.

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC):** An advisory Committee to the Department of Public Safety and CDP on behavioral health issues and crisis intervention. The committee is made up of representatives of behavioral health and social service agencies, criminal justice agencies, advocacy groups, community members, and members of CDP. The MHRAC was developed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Cleveland, Department of Public Safety and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

**Mental Illness:** A disorder of thought, mood, memory, emotion, perception, or orientation that significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality or the ability to address basic life necessities, and requires care and treatment for the health, safety, or recovery of the individual or the safety of others. Some individuals with mental illness may have a dual diagnosis that includes another condition such as drug and/or alcohol addiction.

Mental illness conditions may be characterized by impairment of an individual's normal cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning, and caused by social, psychological, biochemical, genetic, or other factors.

**Specialized CIT Officer:** A voluntary, specially trained, basic patrol officer who has demonstrated a desire and ability to work with people in crisis situations and who has been selected to be a member of the Crisis Intervention Team.