

# Death / Suicide in Custody

## FIRST RESPONDING OFFICERS

1. Raise alarm - **CODE BLUE**. Assume command and provide report.
2. Call for Medical assistance and support to remove those uninvolved.
3. Perform First Aid including Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or defibrillator (if available) as required, apply Infectious Control (Bio-hazard) procedures and wear gloves: (see **MEDICAL EMERGENCY procedure**).
4. In case of hanging cut person down and remove noose (to allow CPR) whilst preserving knot as evidence. Use two staff to move victim.
5. If deceased, treat the body with dignity and respect.
6. Preserve the scene and evidence by posting a guard. **DO NOT** assume self inflicted injury. Consider the involvement of others and a possible crime. Secure clothing, evidence and statements. If in a double bunked cell relocate the other prisoner and manage wellbeing.
7. Ensure that the prisoner phones are deactivated until instructed otherwise by a Manager.

**Every effort must be made to maintain life prior to confirmation by a Medical Officer that a prisoner is dead unless it is obvious that the prisoner has been dead for some time, and that attempts to resuscitate would be futile.**

## INCIDENT CONTROL

1. Ensure Police attending (provide Contact Person and Next of Kin details for Police notification).
2. Notify Regional Commissioner, Victim Notification Registrar and CS Incident Line.
3. Dispatch Manager to scene of death / accident.
4. Ensure area is cordoned and evidence protected for Police upon arrival.
5. Safeguard and account for deceased person's property until releasing it to the Next of Kin (complete inventory which is to be signed by two officers as accurate).
6. Provide Death in Custody booklet to Next of Kin. Explain body removal process. Consider inviting family to prison to view scene.
7. Notify Chaplain.

8. Notify Maori and Pacific Island Advisers (to organise the blessing of the area and conduct karakia / prayer).
9. Notify Regional Health and Safety Advisor.
10. Notify Department of Labour if death occurs in a work place.
11. Ensure that post incident support is made available for staff involved.

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