

		Policy & Procedures			No. 1.43	
		Subject:				
		Alternatives to Arrest				
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CALEA STANDARDS: 41.4.4

Purpose

Although police officers must always be guided by the intent and purpose of the law, there are limited circumstances in the discretion of the officer involved when the public interest would be better served by not making an arrest, even though there is justification for such action.

Policy 41.4.4

All sworn personnel may exercise alternatives to arrest, pre-arraignment confinement and/or pretrial release.

Arrest alternatives include the following:

- Citations
- Summonses
- Informal resolutions
- Warnings
- Referrals to other agencies

Circumstances where alternatives to arrest may be appropriate include the following:

- When an arrest could aggravate community conflict or possibly precipitate a serious disorder.

- When there is a greater priority to respond to a more serious crime or to an urgent public emergency.
- In neighborhood quarrels, noisy parties, landlord tenant problems and minor disturbances of the peace where no serious crime has been committed and the officer can successfully act as a mediator.
- In minor juvenile offenses where a warning and a talk with the parents can avoid a court appearance.
- In other minor offenses where a summons can effectively accomplish the intended purpose.
- In minor motor vehicle offenses where a citation may suffice.