



TRANSIT POLICE

SUDDEN DEATH

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Review Frequency: 2 Years

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TABLE OF CONTENTS (with Quick Links)¹

POLICY	2
Definitions	2
Authority	4
General	4
PROCEDURES	5
Duties of the Operations Communication Center (“OCC”)	5
Duties of Members First on Scene	6
No Suspicious Circumstances.....	7
Forensic Identification Attendance	7
Interviewing Witnesses.....	8
Support for Witnesses, Family, and affected Transit Police Personnel	8
Medication and/or Drugs	9
Duties of Patrol Supervisor	9
Coroner	10
Transportation of Deceased.....	12
Valuables	13
Criminal Record Check	14
Identification of the Deceased.....	14
Notification of Next-of-Kin	15
No Next-of-Kin	16
Disclosure of Information and Press Releases	17
Documentation	17
APPENDIX “A” – SCENE CONTAINMENT GUIDELINES (RAIL STATIONS).....	18

¹ Use **CTRL + HOME** to return to the Table of Contents from anywhere in this document.

POLICY

Definitions

Canadian Police Information Centre ("CPIC") – The Canadian Police Information Centre computer system, a National Police Service administered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Critical Incident – For the purpose of this policy, pursuant to the *Police Act* and the Memorandum of Understanding respecting IIO Investigations, whenever on-duty officers attend:

- (a) any incident where there is a reasonable belief that the presence, action, in action, or decision of an on-duty officer
 - i. may have been a contributing factor in the death of any person, including all in-custody deaths;
 - ii. may have been a contributing factor in a life-threatening injury to any person;
 - iii. may cause disfigurement (permanent change in appearance), if there were no medical intervention; or
 - iv. may cause permanent loss or impairment of any function or mobility of the body, if there were no medical intervention;
- (b) any discharge of a firearm by an on-duty officer where there is a reasonable belief that any person (including a police officer) may have been injured;
- (c) any incident where there is a reasonable belief that the action of an off-duty officer
 - i. may have been a contributing factor in the death of any person;
 - ii. may have been a contributing factor in a life-threatening injury to any person;
 - iii. may cause disfigurement (permanent change in appearance), if there were no medical intervention; or
 - iv. may cause permanent loss or impairment of any function or mobility of the body, if there were no medical intervention.

NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

DEMS – Per Ministerial Order No. M389/2021, the information management system provided by PRIMECORP (Police Records Information Management Environment Incorporated) required to be used by law enforcement services as a digital evidence management system to capture, collect, upload, manage, share and disclose digital evidence.

DEMS Administrator – The Transit Police position designated by the Manager Information Management Services to administer the DEMS in accordance with the law, BC Provincial Policing Standards, the Transit Police DEMS Governance Committee, the Provincial DEMS Governance Committee, associated Memoranda of Understanding and Transit Police policy and procedures, and to provide DEMS technical/training support to Transit Police Personnel.

IIO – Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia established pursuant to s. 38.02 of the *Police Act*.

JPD – Jurisdictional Police Department.

Member – Designated Constable (all ranks), a Deputy Chief Officer, and the Chief Officer of the Transit Police.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police (“Transit Police”) – The operating name of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (Designated Policing Unit and Designated Law Enforcement Unit).

OCC – Operations Communication Center of the Transit Police.

OPCC – Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner of British Columbia established under Part 9 of the *Police Act*.

Police Act – The *BC Police Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 367, and the regulations thereto, as amended from time to time.

Reportable Death – Pursuant to s. 3 of the *Coroners Act*, when a police officer receives a report of death under s. 2 of the *Coroners Act* (as referenced below), the police officer must immediately report to the coroner the facts and circumstances related to the death. In addition the police officer must report to the coroner the death of a person who dies while detained by or in the custody, or in a custodial facility, of a peace officer; or as a result, directly or indirectly, of an act by a peace officer performed in the course of his or her duty. Under s. 2 of the *Coroners Act*, deaths include:

- 2 (1) *The death of an adult or child who the person has reason to believe has died*
 - (a) *as a result of violence, accident, negligence, misconduct or malpractice,*
 - (b) *as a result of self-inflicted illness or injury,*
 - (c) *sudden and unexpectedly, when the person was apparently in good health and not under the care of a medical practitioner,*
 - (d) *from disease, sickness or unknown cause, for which the person was not treated by a medical practitioner,*
 - (e) *during pregnancy, or following pregnancy in the circumstances that might reasonably be attributable to pregnancy,*
 - (f) *if the chief coroner reasonably believes it is in the public interest that a class of deaths be reported and issues a notice in accordance with the regulations, in the circumstances set out in the notice, or*
 - (g) *in any prescribed circumstances.*
- 2 (2) *If a child died in circumstances other than those described in subsection (1), a person who, by regulation, must report child deaths, must immediately report to the chief coroner, in the form required by the chief coroner,*
 - (a) *the facts and circumstances relating to the child’s death, and*
 - (b) *any other information required by the chief coroner.*

Reportable Injury – As defined in the *Police Act*, any of the following: an injury caused by discharge of a firearm; an injury requiring emergency care by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner and transfer to a hospital; or an injury described by regulation under s. 184(2)(c) of the *Police Act*.

Authority

1. Police conduct investigations pursuant to various statutes, including the *Criminal Code*. The Coroner conducts investigations pursuant to the *Coroners Act*. The police, IIO, and Coroner have independent parallel investigative powers that frequently overlap in the investigation of deaths. The *Criminal Code* and *Coroners Act* co-exist and allow for cooperation and the exchange of records and personal information between the police, IIO, and Coroner for their respective investigative mandates. Police do not exercise powers under the *Coroners Act* unless requested and authorized by the Coroner and, conversely, the Coroner is not the agent of the police for criminal investigations.²
2. With all sudden death circumstances in British Columbia, the police will take control of the scene where human remains have been found and will treat it as a possible crime scene. The Coroner coordinates and directs the post mortem examination of the body.

General

3. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

4. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

5. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

² The police, IIO and Coroner consult with one another about specific investigations and generally about the disclosure of information, including personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the delivery of operational assistance between the agencies.

- 6. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

- 7. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

PROCEDURES

Duties of the Operations Communication Center (“OCC”)

- 8. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(9) Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Refer also to Transit Police policy Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

Duties of Members First on Scene

9. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

10. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

11. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

12. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

13. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

No Suspicious Circumstances

14. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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[Redacted]

[Refer also to Transit Police policy Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Forensic Identification Attendance

15. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

16. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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[Redacted]

[Refer also to Transit Police policy Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Interviewing Witnesses

- 17. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]
- 18. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]
- 19. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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- 20. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

Support for Witnesses, Family, and affected Transit Police Personnel

- 21. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]
- 22. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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- 23. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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24. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

25. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

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26. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Refer also to Transit Police Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Medication and/or Drugs

27. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

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NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

28. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

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29. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

[Refer also to Transit Police policy Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Duties of Patrol Supervisor

30. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

[Refer also to Transit Police policy Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

31. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

32. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

33. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

34. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

35. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

36. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

37. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

Coroner

38. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

39. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

40. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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41. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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42. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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43. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

44. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

45. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

46. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Transportation of Deceased

47. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

48. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

49. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NOTE: Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

Valuables

50. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

51. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

52. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

53. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

Criminal Record Check

54. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

55. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

56. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

57. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

Identification of the Deceased

58. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

59. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

60. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

61. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

62. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Notification of Next-of-Kin

63. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

64. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

65. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

66. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Redacted]

Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

67. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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68. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
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69. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

70. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

71. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

No Next-of-Kin

72. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement
[Redacted]

Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

73. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

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Disclosure of Information and Press Releases

74. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

75. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

[Refer also to Transit Police policy Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

Documentation

76. Sec 15(1)(c) FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to Law Enforcement

References

British Columbia *Police Act* [RSBC 1996, c. 367]
 British Columbia *Coroners Act* [SBC 2007, c.15]
Criminal Code of Canada [RSC 1985, c. C-46]
Memorandum of Understanding between the British Columbia Coroners Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Municipal Police Departments, Designated Policing Units and Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia [2022]
Memorandum of Understanding between the Transit Police and Jurisdictional Police [2020]
 Correspondence from Chief Coroner to police agencies regarding “Coroners Taking Possession of Deceased Persons” [May 21, 2014 and June 12, 2014]
 Correspondence from Chief Coroner to police agencies regarding launch of new Field

Operations Unit with provincial responsibility for the oversight of death scene investigations conducted by field unit coroners [[June 23, 2021](#)]

Transit Police [Form OZ0650 – Sudden Death Incident – Records Checklist](#)

Transit Police [Policy AB220 – Critical Incident Stress Management](#)

Transit Police [Policy OD110 – Homicide](#)

Transit Police [Policy OF010 – Evidence \(and DEMS\)](#)

Transit Police [Policy OH070 – Independent Investigations Office](#)

Transit Police [Policy OM050 – Victim Assistance](#)

Transit Police [SOP03 – Guideway Intrusions and Containment](#)