

# Germantown Police Department

## Policies and Procedures

---

---

**Number:** 1-25  
**Effective Date:** January 1, 2003  
**Subject:** Good Samaritan Program  
**Previous Revisions:**

---

---

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines administered by the Police Department for assisting indigent transients stranded in Germantown through a cooperative effort with local businesses and churches.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Germantown Police Department to render aid to persons in need, who pass through the City of Germantown and who meet certain established criteria. The aid may be in the form of food, shelter or transportation assistance.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

*Transient:* Citizens whose home or destination lies outside a one hundred-mile radius of Germantown. Individuals who are not defined as transients should be referred to a local church, shelter or applicable resource for assistance other than what has been outlined within this policy.

### **IV. PROCEDURE**

- A. When an officer makes contact with a transient person(s) in need of shelter, food or transportation assistance, the officer will direct him/her to the communications center where an inquiry through dispatch for warrants will be made to begin the process.
- B. The process will take into consideration the following criteria when evaluating a person(s) need for assistance:
  - 1. The genuine need for the assistance requested

2. The honesty and integrity of the person making the request
  3. The sobriety and mental state of the person
  4. Whether the person has been unable to obtain help from any other source
  5. The person is not a fugitive from justice or one who has made repeated requests for assistance
- C. The program shall be non-discriminatory (not based on sex, race, religion, etc.).
- D. The program provides, by pre-arrangement with a vendor, for the person to receive food, shelter or gas. At no time will cash money be given to the person.
- E. After the initial contact, inquiry, and observation have been completed, the on-duty supervisor will be responsible for making the final decision to grant the request and make sure all the necessary paperwork is completed.
- F. Normally, the maximum amount for food or gas will be \$15.00 per person, per item of assistance.
- G. Normally, only one day of lodging will be authorized.
- H. A list of vendors participating in this program will be maintained in the communications center.
- I. The designated vendors will accept a voucher that is signed by a member of the police department.
- J. The vendor will mail the voucher to the address listed on the voucher to receive reimbursement for services rendered.

**V. REVIEW PROCESS**

An annual review of this policy will be conducted to determine if it should be revised, cancelled or continued in its present form.

This order shall remain in effect until revoked or superseded by competent authority.

