

		DIRECTIVE 6.81	
SUBJECT Prescription Drug Drop-Off Program (NEW)		NO. PAGES 4	
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ISSUED BY: Chief Bobby L. Cummings, M.S.			
Chief of Police Reviewed: 12/1/15			

Prescription Drug Drop – Off Program

Directive: **6.81**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines whereby citizens can safely dispose of unwanted, unused or expired prescription medication that can present a substantial risk to our community by either falling into wrong hands, or by damaging our environment through improper disposal.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Wilmington Department of Police to permanently install a secure prescription drug drop-off box in the House Sergeant’s lobby area of the William T. McLaughlin Public Safety Building where unwanted medication may be turned in anonymously. This service is provided free of charge to citizens and is not intended to be used by businesses or clinics.

III. PROGRAM

Studies have shown that residential supplies of pharmaceutical controlled substances- those found in home medicine cabinets – have become the supply of choice for young people and criminals. Many abusers, a high percentage of which are teens, are known to have obtained their controlled substances from the homes of family and friends. In addition, research has shown that our environment has been threatened by medications being flushed down toilets. Most controlled substances are created synthetically, and are not removed through normal water treatment processes. This can result in the discharge of these substances into the environment and into our ground water supplies.

The Wilmington Department of Police has participated in the National Take Back Day in the past and will continue to be part of this endeavor on a quarterly or annual basis. In conjunction with the national program, the Wilmington Department of Police would like

to offer citizens a more permanent location which they can access 24 hours a day seven days a week and anonymously drop off their expired or unwanted prescription drugs (no liquids or needles/ syringes will be accepted).

The Drug Evidence Officer will check and empty the drop –off box [REDACTED] and all medicines collected from the drop-off box will be [REDACTED] in accordance with the Wilmington Department of Police established drug disposal procedures.

This program not only helps to protect the environment, it can also deter the use of prescription drugs by unintended parties – including young people facing peer pressure and new ways to “get high.” The Wilmington Department of Police constantly strives to be proactive in enhancing public safety and saving lives.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. The House Sergeant personnel should be aware of persons bringing prescription drugs into the lobby to be dropped–off in the box. In the event it appears a suspicious item other than prescription drugs has been placed in the drop–off box, the House Sergeant’s personnel will immediately [REDACTED].
2. Drug Evidence Officer is responsible for collecting of medications from the drop-off box [REDACTED] and for ensuring the medications are safe for disposal. The medication obtained from the drop-off box will be weighed, boxed up and stored in the secure Drug Evidence Locker. The Drug Evidence Officer will utilize the Prescription Drug Information Form to document the total weight of the medications received during each collection for statistical and tracking purposes prior to destruction. Collected medications will be packaged in the same manner as other property stored in the Drug Evidence Locker. In the event that the Drug Evidence Officer is unavailable, the Commanding Officer of the Drug, Organized Crime and VICE Division will be responsible for the collection.

NOTE: The Drug Evidence Officer should use caution when emptying the drop-off box in the event that liquids or needles/syringes have been placed in the box as well.

3. Drug Evidence Officer shall routinely destroy medications during scheduled incineration dates in accordance with the schedule for other items stored in the Drug evidence room that are required to be incinerated. Because these prescriptions are not considered evidence, a court order is not required for routine destruction.

When the Department participates in the DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, the DEA will take all the prescription drugs collected and stored from the drop-off box since the last incineration date and dispose of said medication.

4. Police personnel during the course of their official duties shall not collect any medication or related paraphernalia and use the drop-off box as a means to dispose of said items.

WILMINGTON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

