

UNAUTHORIZED PATIENT DROP OFFS

City Attorney's Office, Public Safety Division

City Council
September 30, 2021

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1

BACKGROUND

- Recently, the City has been experiencing hospital patient drop offs at local health facilities and within the City in general.
- Transportation consists of Ubers, taxis, hired vans, and the like.
- During the height of patient drop offs, the City Attorney's Office sent out over 50 letters to the surrounding health facilities.
- The letters contained information regarding state law requirements and local agency policies and procedures.

2



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2

WORKING WITH HEALTH FACILITIES

- Corona Regional Medical Center
 - Meeting with CEO
 - Informed of local policies and procedure
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
 - Meeting with SBD County Counsel
 - Discussed recent issues and resolutions
- Pertinent information in these cases:
 - Discharge paperwork from the hospital
 - Hospital ID wrist bands
 - Any information identifying the hospital



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3

STATE STATUTES

- State statutes regulate when, where, and how a health facility may discharge and transport a patient from their facility.
- Requirements such as communication, notice, and written consent by the receiving health facility are in place to avoid unauthorized transportation of patients experiencing homelessness.



4

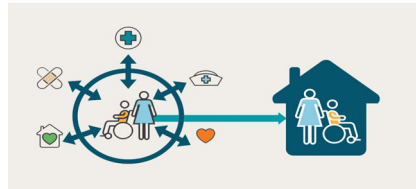
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4

HOSPITAL DROP OFFS

Health and Safety Code Sections 1262.4, 1262.5, and 1262.8 regulate the discharge and transfer of a patient from a health facility.

These sections also allow a local agency to enact and enforce local ordinances that do not conflict with state laws.



5

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5

PROPOSED LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Local ordinances prohibiting unauthorized patient drop offs at health facilities.
- Detailing the policies and procedures to obtain written consent from the accepting City of Riverside Health Facility before transfer.
- Holding accountable the discharging health facility and the transporter of the patient.



6

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6