



Santa Cruz Consolidated  
Emergency Communications Center

495 Upper Park Road  
Santa Cruz, California 95065  
(831) 471-1000 Fax (831) 471-1010

Michael J. McDougall  
General Manager

**9-1-1** FIRE  
POLICE  
MEDICAL

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS  
LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

**Policy No.: 4795**  
**Date Issued: June 1, 1996**  
**Date Revised: January 14, 2002**

APPROVED: S. Rablins  
Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee

APPROVED: Michael J. McDougall  
General Manager, SCCECC

**SUBJECT: PRIVATE DETECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

Representatives of private detective agencies conducting investigative activities may notify the local law enforcement agency of their activities.

This notification is a courtesy and is not required by law. However, if a private detective does not notify the local jurisdiction, an officer, while on routine patrol, may contact the subject. This contact could jeopardize the private detectives' investigation.

Upon receipt of a call from a private detective, obtain the following information:

- ◆ Name of detective.
- ◆ Name and phone number of employing agency.
- ◆ Cellular phone number of the detective, if available.
- ◆ Vehicle description including license plate number.
- ◆ Location of the investigation. Are other locations involved?
- ◆ Anticipated duration of the investigation.

Notify the patrol supervisor and appropriate beat officer of the investigation. Do not broadcast this information over the radio.

If the investigation continues into the next shift, inform the next dispatcher, patrol supervisor and beat officer of all pertinent information.

If a citizen reports the detective and vehicle as suspicious, inform the citizen that the local law enforcement agency is aware and that the situation is under control. Do not inform the citizen that the subject is a private investigator.