Chapter 17 - Letter "N"

Printed: 7/2/2025 (WEB)

• 4-17/005.00 - Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (Controlled Substances)

CLASSIFICATION Crime or Incident FORM NUMBER ASSIGNMENT AND ACTION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND STATISTICAL CODES
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4-17/005.00	Narcotics	Narcotics Bureau shall be notified by phone only if the
NARCOTICS AND	Bureau	arrest involves an appreciable amount of contraband
DANGEROUS		or there are unusual circumstances of the arrest.
DRUGS		
(CONTROLLED		Generally, the suspect shall be booked, 11377 H&S,
SUBSTANCES)		Possession of Dangerous Drugs, when arrested person has fewer than 50 units of dangerous drugs or fewer than 10 units of LSD or DMT. If, however, the circumstances clearly indicate that the drugs were possessed for the purpose of sale (e.g., small number of pills/capsules/units are contained in numerous independent packages; the suspect has large amount of unexplained currency; or other similar indicative circumstances), the appropriate booking charge would be 11378 H&S, Possession of Dangerous
		Drugs for Sale. Suspect shall be booked 11378 H&S, Possession of Dangerous Drugs for Sale, if arrestee has more than 50 units of dangerous drugs or more than 10 units of LSD or DMT.
		If additional non-narcotics related charges are involved, joint assignment shall be made in accordance with the assignment for the specific crime. When such joint assignments result in a prosecution for other than a drug or narcotic charge, the officer handling the prosecution shall notify the Narcotics Bureau of the court disposition and the place and length of imprisonment. Such notification shall be by means of a supplemental report to the Narcotics Bureau.
		For controlled substances transporting procedures, see Volume 5, chapter 4.
		Most of the codes applicable to narcotics and dangerous drugs are listed in the Statistical Code Book under the 18X section.

Addict, voluntary commitment			Any person who requests treatment and rehabilitation under the provisions of 3100 WIC shall be instructed to obtain an affidavit from his personal physician indicating that he is a narcotic addict or believes he is about to become addicted and that he is likely to injure himself or others or become a menace to the public. The affidavit must be submitted within three days to the Deputy District Attorney at Department 95 of the Superior Court and a request made for detention pending examination by court appointed physician. Code 423 - Voluntary Narcotic Commitment, if report written.
Arrests, felony	SH-R-49 URN 18	Narcotics Bureau A	When an adult is arrested without a warrant for a felony violation of a narcotic law, the appropriate section shall be used as the booking charge, based on circumstances.
Arrests, misdemeanor	SH-R-49 URN 18	Station/Unit Patrol A	Persons arrested for misdemeanor narcotic offenses shall be booked on the appropriate charge, based on the circumstances (e.g., Possession of Methamphetamine, 11377 H&S). Arrests for misdemeanor narcotic offenses which require an "expert opinion" in order to establish the elements of the violation will be made only by or on approval of Narcotics Bureau personnel. Arrest for 11550(b) H&S, under the influence of phencyclidine SRD to Narcotics Bureau.
Arrests, Misdemeanor occurring within a county park or recreational facility	SH-R-49 URN 18	Parks Patrol A	Persons arrested for obvious narcotic offenses shall be booked on the appropriate charge, based on the circumstances (e.g., Possession of Narcotic Paraphernalia, 11364 H&S). Arrests for misdemeanor narcotic offenses which require an "expert opinion" in order to establish the elements of the violation will be made only by or on approval of Narcotics Bureau personnel.

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4149 B&P	SH-R-49 URN 18	Station/Unit Patrol A	SRD to Narcotics Bureau.
4149 B&P occurring within a county park or recreational facility	SH-R-49 URN 18	Parks Patrol A	SRD to Narcotics Bureau.

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Arrest of School Employees	SH-R-49 URN	Narcotics Bureau A	In compliance with 11591 H&S, when a private or public school employee is arrested for a violation of only the offenses enumerated in section 11590 or section 11364, insofar as that section relates to paragraph (12) of subdivision (d) of section 11054 H&S (regarding LSD), the watch commander shall do one of the following: • If such school employee is a teacher in any of the public schools of this state, they shall
			immediately notify by telephone the superintendent of schools of the school district employing such teacher and shall immediately give written notice of the arrest to the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing and to the superintendent of schools in the county wherein such person is employed. Upon receipt of such notice, the county superintendent of schools shall immediately notify the governing board of the school district employing such person;
			 If such school employee is not a teacher in any of the public schools of this state, they shall immediately notify by telephone the superintendent of schools of the school district employing such person and shall immediately give written notice of the arrest to the governing board of the school district employing such person; and
			 If such school employee is a teacher in any private school of this state, they shall immediately notify by telephone the private school authority employing such teacher and shall immediately give written notice of the arrest to the private school authority employing such teacher.
			NOTE 1: If there is no 24-hour number to make notification, notification shall then be made promptly the next business day.
			NOTE 2: Public schools include community colleges.

Cannabis	SH-R-49 URN	Station/Unit Detective	See Cannabis
Counterfeit Medical Prescription Blanks	18	A	Copy of report to Narcotics Detail at the Station/Unit. Code 339 – All other Felonies Code 185 - Miscellaneous, Misdemeanor.
Detained suspect, not booked	SH-R-49 SH-AD-516 URN 18	Narcotics Bureau A	When a suspect is detained, taken to a station, but a booking is not made, the person shall be released if no other charges apply. A Certificate of Release shall be given to person detained. An Incident Report under an URN shall be prepared showing a classification of "Possible Dangerous Drug Violation" and including circumstances of possession and all available identification of possible suspects. The suspected evidence shall be marked for identification and preserved for the Narcotics Bureau. Narcotics Bureau shall be notified by phone only if the arrest involves an appreciable amount of contraband, or there are unusual circumstances of the arrest.
Driving under influence	SH-R-221 URN 24	Station/Unit Patrol	Driving while addicted to or under the influence of narcotics or drugs, 23152 CVC, (without injury - misdemeanor); or 23153 CVC (with injury or death - felony). Concurrent assignment with Narcotics Bureau only when narcotics evidence (drugs, narcotics, or narcotics paraphernalia) is seized or 11550 H&S is charged. Urine and/or blood samples are not to be considered evidence for concurrent assignments. NOTE: For purposes of barbiturate analysis, the Scientific Services Bureau Crime Lab will accept urine samples or blood samples of a minimum of 10 cc. Blood or urine samples are acceptable for toxicological examinations of amphetamines, opiates (heroin), phencyclidine (PCP), cannabinoids (marijuana) and cocaine.

Driving under influence occurring within a county park or recreational facility	SH-R-49 URN 24	Parks Patrol A	Driving while addicted to or under the influence of narcotics or drugs, 23152 CVC, (without injury - misdemeanor); or 23153 CVC (with injury or death - felony). Concurrent assignment with Narcotics Bureau only when narcotics evidence (drugs, narcotics, or narcotics paraphernalia) is seized of 11550 H&S is charged.
Drug abuse referral procedure:			
Adults			All adult narcotic suspects will be handled by Narcotics Bureau deputies. Those whose cases are rejected by the District Attorney will be offered the opportunity to avail themselves of the services of the Drug Abuse Clinic by the Narcotics Bureau.
Juveniles			Juvenile subjects arrested for 647(f) PC, Under the Influence of Drugs, or any narcotics charge wherein a petition will not be filed, will, through their parent(s) or guardian, be afforded the opportunity to use the Drug Abuse Clinic's services. This will be done by the juvenile or patrol deputy handling the release and will be based on the releasing deputy's opinion of whether or not the subject has a drug problem. The Drug Abuse Clinic will evaluate his potential for rehabilitation.
Referral forms - adult and juvenile			 A Drug Abuse Clinic Referral form (SH-CR-584) will be completed by the deputy affecting the release. Distribution of the form is as follows: Original (white) to person referred or parent of minor; Green and yellow copies to station/unit Narcotics Bureau; and Third copy to station/unit file (clerical personnel shall make appropriate note on Los Angeles County Regional Information System entry, e.g., "Subject referred to Drug Abuse Clinic").

Found or recovered drugs or narcotics	SH-R-49 URN 18	Narcotics Bureau A	Narcotics Bureau shall be notified by phone only if the arrest involves an appreciable amount of contraband or there are unusual circumstances of the arrest. If other property is found or recovered with the controlled substance, it may be released to the owner by patrol or station/unit detectives. Only Narcotics Bureau will release the controlled substance. Code 186 - Found Narcotics.
Information or circumstances relating to possession for sale or sale of narcotics or dangerous drugs	SH-AD-32A	Narcotics Bureau	Narcotics Bureau personnel shall be notified in all situations relating to possession for sale or sale of narcotics, dangerous drugs or cannabis where follow-up investigation or the acquisition and service of a search warrant is necessary. Such cases shall be the responsibility of Narcotics Bureau; however, in the event that Narcotics Bureau is unable to pursue the investigation in a timely manner, the reporting unit may undertake the required investigative effort after Narcotics Bureau establishes that there are no conflicting investigations under way that may constitute hazards. If immediate investigation is necessary and the Narcotics Bureau personnel is unavailable, notify Narcotics Bureau headquarters by phone or, after hours, Sheriff's Information Bureau. In situations where the narcotics sales from a specific area or location become chronic, a memorandum detailing the activity shall be prepared, signed by the unit commander, and submitted through channels to Narcotics Bureau headquarters.
Juveniles arrested	SH-R-49 URN 18	Station/Unit Detective and Narcotics Bureau	Narcotics Bureau shall be notified by phone only if the arrest involves an appreciable amount of contraband or there are unusual circumstances of the arrest.
Marijuana			See Cannabis.

Phencyclidine(PCP) and/or chemicals found in a clandestine lab			See "Chemicals Found/Report of"; and Volume 5, Chapter 6.
Registration of narcotic violators			Upon release from custody, violators convicted of narcotic violations under 11590 H&S are required to register at the Public Services Unit of the Records and Identification Bureau.
Thefts of controlled substances, prescription drugs or chemicals used in manufacture of same	SH-R-49 URN 07	Station/Unit Detective A	Copy of report to Narcotics Bureau, station/unit. For petty theft, use statistical codes under the 38s.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department