



**Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training**

860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605-1630  
[www.post.ca.gov](http://www.post.ca.gov)

Date: May 8, 2017

Bulletin: No. 2017-21

Subject: **Field Training Program - Additional Mental Health Content  
Senate Bill 29**

On October 03, 2015, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 29 (Beall), which mandated additional mental health response training for law enforcement officers. Senate Bill 29 (SB 29) added section 13515.295 to the Penal Code, requiring POST to conduct a review and evaluation of the required competencies of the Field Training Program (FTP) and Police Training Program (PTP) to identify areas where additional training is necessary to better prepare law enforcement officers to effectively address incidents involving persons with a mental illness or intellectual disability.

The Commission later approved the regulatory changes pursuant to SB 29 with respect to the added competencies in the FTP and PTP. Formal implementation of the regulatory changes have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as well. POST is requesting that agencies with Field Training or Police Training programs to immediately implement the required changes into their respective field training programs.

As required in new Penal Code section 13515.295, the FTP and PTP must include specified content which has been incorporated into Commission Procedure D-13-3, Field Training Program Minimum Content Requirements. The additional content required is as follows:

*Control of Mentally Ill (Adults and Juveniles)*

*This training shall address issues related to stigma, shall be culturally relevant and appropriate, and shall include all of the following:*

- *How to identify indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, substance use disorders, neurological disorders, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and dementia*
- *Autism spectrum disorder*
- *Genetic disorders, including, but not limited to, Down syndrome*
- *Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations*
- *Alternatives to the use of force when interacting with potentially dangerous persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities*



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- *The perspective of individuals or families who have experiences with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders*
- *Involuntary holds*
- *Community and state resources available to serve persons with mental illness or intellectual disability, and how these resources can be best utilized by law enforcement*

The State of California currently has over 450 POST approved Field Training and Police Training Programs, and pursuant to regulation, incorporation of the added content would technically require resubmission by all affected agencies of their entire program packages, with commensurate evaluation and approval by POST staff. This process would cause significant delays in agencies being able to start field training with the newly added content.

To prevent delays in updating approvals and to provide a resolution to address the required statutory training content, POST staff has developed a supplemental training block for the existing Field Training /Police Training manual for agencies to incorporate into their programs, in the form of an attestation document for each respective agency to verify compliance by including the added mental health competencies into its programs.

Copies of the completed attestation forms will be attached to existing FTP or PTP files at POST. As each program goes through eventual revision, the topics will need to be formally incorporated into the curriculum, and the attestation form shall be removed at that time.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the attestation form to comply with new legislative requirements for POST's Field Training Program (FTP) or Police Training Program (PTP) per Penal Code Section 13515.295.

Download the Field Training Program Mental Health Attestation and Addendum form on the [POST Website](#). Type or legibly print (in ink) all information required on the printed form.

Return the completed and signed application to POST. A scanned form with original signature may be sent in lieu of US mail. Approval notification will be sent to you within 60 working days from the date the completed attestation is received. Any agency that fails to return the attestation form will be non-compliant with California law, which could result in removal from program approval status. There is no need to re-submit POST form 229 (POST Approved Field Training or Police Training Program Application.)

The topics addressed in newly mandated FTP/PTO content are going to be incorporated into curriculum for Field Training Officers. Until each agency's Field /Police Training Officers have had the opportunity to attend the newly mandated



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mental health training, POST recommends agencies seek expertise from their regional subject matter experts in mental health to obtain further guidance if needed to expand on the curriculum.

Additional support material has been generated by POST in consultation with mental health subject matter experts for Regular Basic Course Learning Domain 37. It may be utilized as a reference for agency incorporation into the FTP/PTP.

The SB 29 training requirements of the Mental Health Attestation and Addendum may be accessed on the [POST Website](#).

Please direct questions regarding Field Training and Police Training Programs to POST Senior Consultant Jim Grottkau, Basic Training Bureau, at (916) 227-3935, or by email at [JGrottkau@post.ca.gov](mailto:JGrottkau@post.ca.gov).

MANUEL ALVAREZ, JR.  
Executive Director