Citation Releases

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department with guidance on when to release adults who are suspected offenders on a citation for a criminal offense, rather than having the person held in custody for a court appearance or released on bail.

Additional release restrictions may apply to those detained for domestic violence, as outlined in the Domestic Violence Policy.

410.2 POLICY
The University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department will consider its resources and its mission of protecting the community when exercising any discretion to release suspected offenders on a citation, when authorized to do so.

410.3 RELEASE
A citation-eligible offense is a misdemeanor offense that may be enforced by either issuing a citation or by making a custodial arrest. The following types of misdemeanors are citation-eligible offenses (Md. Code CP § 4-101(c)):

(a) Any misdemeanor or local ordinance violation that does not carry a penalty of imprisonment.

(b) Any misdemeanor or local ordinance violation for which the maximum penalty of imprisonment is 90 days or less.

(c) Possession of marijuana. under §5-601 of the Criminal Law Article (possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana).

410.3.1 ARREST AND RELEASE
An officer who has grounds to make a warrantless arrest for an offense that may be charged by citation may (Md. Code CP § 4-101(c)(3)):

(a) Issue a citation in lieu of making the arrest.

(b) Make the arrest and subsequently issue a citation in lieu of continued custody. If this occurs, the officer must complete and submit any involuntary detention report.

410.4 PROHIBITIONS
The release of a suspected offender on a citation is not permitted when the misdemeanor or local ordinance violation involves any of the following (Md. Code CP § 4-101(c)(1)):

(a) Failure to comply with a peace order under Md. Code CJ § 3-1508.

(b) Failure to comply with a protective order under Md. Code FL § 4-509.

(c) Violation of a condition of pretrial or post trial release under Md. Code CP § 5-213.1.
Citation Releases

(d) Possession of an electronic control device after conviction of a drug felony or crime of violence under Md. Code CR § 4-109(b).

(e) Violation of an out-of-state domestic violence order under Md. Code FL § 4-508.1.

(f) Abuse or neglect of an animal under Md. Code CR § 10-604.

See the Domestic Violence Policy for release restrictions related to those investigations.

410.5 CONSIDERATIONS
An officer may charge a defendant by citation provided (Md. Code CP § 4-101(c)(2)):

(a) The officer is satisfied with the defendant’s evidence of identity.

(b) The officer reasonably believes that the defendant will comply with the citation.

(c) The officer reasonably believes that the failure to charge on a statement of charges will not pose a threat to public safety.

(d) The defendant is not subject to arrest for another criminal charge arising out of the same incident.

(e) The defendant complies with all lawful orders by the officer.

410.6 CITATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Officers charging by citation shall report the following information on the Maryland Uniform Complaint and Citation Form consistent with the procedures developed by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) and the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (Md. Code CP § 4-101.1):

(a) The date, location and time of the issuance of the citation.

(b) The offense charged.

(c) The gender of the offender.

(d) The date of birth of the offender.

(e) The street address, state, ZIP code and, if available, the county of residence of the offender.

(f) The race or ethnicity of the offender as:
   - Asian
   - Black
   - Hispanic
   - White
   - Other