

## Disabled Vehicles

### 505.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for Deputies who provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within the primary jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

### 505.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to assist motorists with disabled vehicles until those vehicles are safely removed from the street or right-of-way. Deputies should take appropriate action to mitigate potential problems when a vehicle constitutes a traffic hazard or the safety of the motorist is a concern.

### 505.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

When an on-duty Deputy of this office sees a disabled vehicle on the street or right-of-way, the Deputy should make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If this is not reasonably possible, the telecommunicator should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The telecommunicator should notify Highway Patrol to respond as soon as practicable.

### 505.4 ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by Deputies will be contingent on the time of day, weather conditions the location, the availability of office resources and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

#### 505.4.1 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Deputies should not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle. Pushing a vehicle with consent of the owner, to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

#### 505.4.2 RELOCATION OF DISABLE VEHICLES

The relocation of disabled vehicles by Deputies of this office by pushing or pulling a vehicle should only occur when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a hazard presented by the disabled vehicle.

#### 505.4.3 STRANDED MOTORISTS

A motorist may be transported with the motorist's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that relocation of a motorist is necessary to mitigate a potential hazard. The Deputy may stay with a stranded motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.

# Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

## Policy Manual

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#### 505.4.4 UNLOCKING OR JUMP STARTING PRIVATE VEHICLES

Purpose – The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure of unlocking or jump starting private motor vehicles. The goal is to best serve the public with regard and concern not damage a vehicle and thereby incur liability and cost to the office.

Policy – No employee of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office shall not unlock or jump start motor vehicles unless an emergency situation exists. In non-emergency situations the officer on the scene shall refer the motorist to qualified locksmiths or mechanic.

Emergency Situations – Life threatening or personal injury situation (i.e. a child or animal left or locked in a hot or cold vehicle, etc.) are to be considered and may constitute an emergency. Other situations, (i.e. the vehicle's engine is operating where the vehicle is blocking passage) are not considered emergency situations unless there are extenuating circumstances apparent to the Deputy on the scene which, in his or her judgment, would classify the situation as an emergency.