SOLANO COUNTY CALIFORNIA PROBATION DEPARTMENT	POLICY NUMBER: 613	EFFECTIVE DATE: April 3, 2016
	SUPERSEDES: June 30, 2007	
APPROVED BY: CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER	TITLE: PROBATION PURSUITS	

1. **Policy** Pursuits of any nature are not to be routinely done. Probation officers are expected to act reasonably, based on the totality of the circumstances. Absent exigent circumstances, the safety of Solano County Probation Department (Department) personnel and the public should be the primary consideration when determining whether a pursuit should be initiated or continued.

   Law enforcement is to be notified of the Department's limitations and policy. Any reasonable request by law enforcement should be considered if a pursuit occurs. Any pursuit must be accompanied by an incident report to the unit supervisor.

   For the purposes of this policy, "exigent circumstances" that may warrant a pursuit means a serious threat to the safety of probation officers or members of the public.

   For purposes of this policy, probation officer includes all sworn peace officer classifications, including Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Services Manager, and field group counselors.

2. **Procedures**

   A. Vehicle Pursuits

      (1) Vehicle pursuits are not authorized as probation officers are not equipped or trained for those purposes. These activities are for law enforcement officers only.

      (2) If the probation officer is a passenger in a marked or unmarked patrol vehicle and a vehicle pursuit occurs, the probation officer may assist law enforcement; however, their role is limited. Probation officer may assist in communications if trained in proper police codes and procedures. Limitations and liabilities of the probation officer are to be discussed with law enforcement prior to any operation, ride along, etc. All safety and caution, i.e. seatbelts, must be observed.

   B. Foot Pursuits

      (1) Foot pursuits should not be engaged in, unless exigent circumstances exist.

(2) If circumstances permit, surveillance and containment are generally the safest tactics for apprehending fleeing persons. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, a probation officer should continuously consider reasonable alternative to pursuit based upon the circumstances and resources available.

(3) Factors to be considered:

a. Purpose of the pursuit.

b. The seriousness of the criminal conduct and its relationship to community safety.

c. Whether the individual can be identified and apprehended at a later time.

d. Whether the probation officer reasonably believes that the danger to the pursuing officer(s) or public outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension.

e. If the probationer can be reasonably placed into custody safely.

f. Environment considerations, such as nature of the area of pursuit (rural or urban), weather conditions (fog, rain, etc.), and the time of day.

g. Safety of the probationer must be considered.

h. Adequate number of probation officers or law enforcement to assist.

i. The safety of the probation officer, law enforcement, bystanders or property left behind if pursuit is engaged in.

j. Whether the physical condition of the probation officer renders them incapable of controlling the suspect if apprehended.

(4) A foot pursuit shall not be engaged in if there are additional subjects in the care and custody of the probation officer or law enforcement, as they cannot be left behind and unattended under any circumstances to pursue other suspects.

C. Guidelines for Foot Pursuit

(1) Unless the probation officer reasonably believes that exigent circumstances exist, officers should consider reasonable alternatives to engaging in or continuing a foot pursuit.

(2) The following guidelines must be adhered to during a foot pursuit:

a. At all times, communication devices must be carried and used to provide location information of not only the probationer, but also the probation officer's location and status; and to inform others of any safety concerns.

b. A foot pursuit is not to be conducted by a lone probation officer, unless it is an emergency situation. In these situations, the officer is to take caution and attempt to only follow and observe subject at a safe distance and contact law enforcement for assistance immediately. If not possible, pursuit is to terminate immediately.

c. If probationer enters into a building or any other area or structure in which he/she may be able to hide or there is a possibility of danger to the probation officer, law enforcement or bystanders, probation officer is to terminate pursuit. The probation officer will notify law enforcement of the subject's last known position.

d. If the probationer turns on the pursuing probation officer or other law enforcement officers, or struggles during an attempted arrest, reasonable force may be used based upon departmental policy and guidelines.

e. Lethal force is not to be used for the sole purpose of stopping a fleeing probationer, unless exigent circumstances exist.

D. Reporting of Foot Pursuit

(1) The initiating probation officer shall complete an incident report documenting, at minimum, the following:

a. The reason for initiating the foot pursuit.

b. The identity of involved staff.

c. The course and approximate distance of the pursuit.

d. The means and methods used to apprehend the suspect.

e. Any injuries or property damage.

(2) Any other probation officers involved shall complete an incident report as directed.

3. **Exceptions** Any exceptions to the provisions set forth in this Policy shall require prior written approval from the Chief Probation Officer.