

POLICY

SUPERVISING THE PATROL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED CASES**Framework**

The success of the interagency approach hinges largely on what happens in the first hour of each case. The patrol officer's role in laying a foundation for all subsequent interventions cannot be over-emphasized. Patrol supervisors, in turn, relay the department's priorities and expectations, thereby reinforcing the interagency response and the patrol officer's key role. This is accomplished by supervisors periodically attending domestic violence calls at the scene, reviewing reports on a daily basis, and providing more in-depth review of reports as needed to maintain the department's report-writing standards and reinforce the importance of thorough patrol reports to the overall safety and accountability goals of the interagency approach.

Policy: Patrol Supervision

In addition to following general agency policy, patrol sergeants and department command will take the following actions in providing supervisory oversight

in domestic violence-related cases, using the protocols, appendices, and training memos referenced and included as part of this policy.

1. Implement the provisions of this policy in accordance with *Protocol 5: Supervising the Patrol Response to Domestic Violence*.
2. Monitor responding officers' on-scene activities and compliance with policy by periodically appearing on the scene of domestic calls and assessing the patrol response.
3. Review patrol reports for accuracy and completeness.
4. Respond to patrol officers' requests to approve decisions to not arrest in misdemeanor cases where probable cause has been established.
5. Respond to department employee-involved domestic violence calls by ensuring that a supervisor of higher rank than the involved officer is dispatched to the scene.

6. Ensure that patrol officers receive and are introduced to domestic violence response policies and protocols and related appendices and training memos.

Protocols, appendices, and training memos

The following protocol is attached to and included as part of the patrol supervision policy:

- › *5: Supervising the Patrol Response to Domestic Violence*

The following appendix is included as part of the patrol supervision policy:

- *Patrol Supervision – Domestic Violence Patrol Report Review*

See the Blueprint Supplement for appendices and training memos referenced in the policy and protocol.

POLICY: SUPERVISING INVESTIGATIONS

Law Enforcement Protocol 5: Supervising the Patrol Response to Domestic Violence

Use the following related protocols, appendices, and training memos to implement this protocol:

- › *Protocol 1: Patrol Response to Domestic Abuse-Related Calls*
- › *Protocol 2: Victim Engagement Guidelines*
- › *Appendix: Practitioners' Guide to Risk and Danger in Domestic Violence Cases*
- › *Appendix: Interventions with Victims of Battering as Suspects or Defendants*
- › *Gone-on-Arrival (GOA) Cases*
- › *Making the Arrest Decision*
- › *Miranda Rights and Domestic Violence Cases*
- › *Implications of the Crawford Decision and Forfeiture by Wrongdoing for Police Response to Domestic Violence*
- › *Law Enforcement Response to Strangulation*
- › *Law Enforcement Response to Stalking*

- › *Response to Children in Domestic Abuse–Related Calls*
 - › *How a Defense Attorney Reads a Domestic Violence–Related Report*
 - › *How a Prosecutor Reads a Domestic Violence–Related Report*
 - › *Law Enforcement Response to Persons with Disabilities*
1. Assess the on-scene patrol response to domestic violence-related calls, including:
 - a. Skill in securing the scene and managing the immediate crisis
 - b. Skill in obtaining initial information from those at the scene
 - c. Thorough assessment and documentation of probable cause determinations
 - d. Awareness of potential stalking, strangulation, and witness tampering
 - e. Skill and thoroughness in identifying, photographing (or arranging for photographs) of injuries and relevant evidence, and collecting physical evidence
 - f. Professional and competent treatment of those at the scene, including victims, children, people with disabilities, older victims
 - g. Prompt referral to advocacy
 - h. Conscientious attention to the security of the victim by making reasonable efforts to secure broken doors or windows, obtain a cell phone to call 911, etc.
 2. Conduct daily and ongoing reviews of patrol officers' reports.
 - a. Use the Law Enforcement Report Checklist attached to *Law Enforcement Protocol 1: Patrol Response to Domestic Violence–Related Calls*, to review daily reports submitted by officers and approve or send back for corrections.
 - b. If the suspect is in custody and the author of the report is off-duty, approve the report and notify the investigative unit supervisor of the errors in the report.
 - c. On a quarterly basis, randomly select two reports of each officer and conduct a thorough review of the reports using the appendix, *Domestic Violence Patrol Report Review*. Where reports do not meet the standards, meet with the officers to provide feedback and guidance.
 - d. Periodically review a sample of reports submitted by officers in cases involving a determination of no probable cause to review compliance with policy and protocol.
 3. Approve officers' decisions to not arrest in misdemeanor cases where probable cause has been established in accordance with departmental arrest policy and emphasis on avoiding unnecessarily placing children in foster care as the primary reason for no arrest in such cases.
 4. In responding to department employee–involved domestic violence, take the following action:
 - a. Recover the officer's badge, ID, and service weapon.
 - b. If the situation is deemed to be highly dangerous, remove all weapons from the scene on the same basis as any member of the public.
 - c. Supervise the on-scene investigation.
 5. Introduce and provide officers with appendices and training memos related to policies and protocols governing the patrol response to domestic violence cases.
 - a. Patrol sergeants: introduce each of the appendices and training memos and review them with patrol during roll call.
 - b. Post appendices and training memos via e-mail.
 - c. Direct officers to read and confirm that they have read the documents pursuant to established procedures.