

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

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| Chief of Police: Kathryn Nance /s/ | | |
| Approving Deputy Chief: Zachary Thew/s/ | | |
| General Order No: D-120-05 | Issued: September 6, 2005 | Revised: July 14, 2023 |
| General Order Title: DETECTIVES | | |

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Reno Police Department to pursue criminal investigations to an appropriate conclusion, in an effective and efficient manner by coordinating the efforts of patrol, detectives assigned to the Detective Section and Detectives assigned to regional units and/or other specialized units.

II. DEFINITIONS

Case Status – Administrative designations used to indicate the state of a case. Case Statuses are as follows:

- A. Open – The case is assigned to a Lead Investigator and investigative efforts are active.
- B. Closed – When a case reaches a conclusion meeting NIBRS Offense Cleared Criteria.
- C. Suspended – Investigative efforts have ceased because all leads have been exhausted, however the case is not closed and may be re-opened whenever new information is developed.
- D. Unassigned – Any case that lacks the necessary information to initiate or continue investigative efforts.

Detective – A sworn officer who has been selected and assigned to a primarily investigative role.

Investigator – Regardless of assignment or rank, a community services officer, detective, officer, police service specialist or other individual designated to investigate crimes.

Lead Detective – A detective that has assumed or that has been assigned primary responsibility for conducting an investigation.

NIBRS – The National Incident Based Reporting System is the national crime data collection program.

Solvability Factors – Departmental criteria used to evaluate whether or not an investigation can successfully reach closed status. They are:

- A. The suspect is or can likely be identified;
- B. The suspect has been or likely can be located;

- C. The license plate number of the vehicle used in the crime is known;
- D. The vehicle can be identified;
- E. There was traceable stolen property;
- F. There were identifiable latent fingerprints lifted from the scene;
- G. There was usable suspect DNA collected;
- H. A significant modus operandi has been recognized in the case;
- I. It is reasonably suspected that there was a limited opportunity to commit the crime; and/or
- J. There is reason to believe that further investigative effort will lead to the solving of the crime.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Initial Investigation – During the initial investigation, Investigators should focus on protecting people, securing crime scenes, apprehending suspects, collecting evidence and writing reports. Depending on the nature and/or severity of the crime, additional resources may be required to conduct the investigation.

1. Investigator's Responsibilities – Investigators shall conduct investigations pursuant to law and policy and in accordance with their capabilities and training. Whenever time and/or staffing allows, Investigators shall make every effort to pursue an investigation to case closure, arrest and/or recovery of property, with the resources available to them. Investigators will notify their supervisor of emergent cases that require further investigation and/or additional resources.

2. Supervisor's Responsibilities – Supervisors are responsible for ensuring Investigators fulfill their responsibilities, have the resources necessary pursuant to the complexity of the investigation, requesting assistance from other units, making appropriate notifications, and ensuring case routing and status are entered in the department's case management systems.

B. On-Going Investigations – Cases that require extensive, additional or specialized investigation are generally assigned to a Detective.

1. Detective Sergeant's Responsibilities – Sergeants that supervise Detectives are responsible for reviewing cases and assigning them. The objective of case review is to better apply available resources to the investigation of those offenses that are likely to reach a successful disposition. Sergeants should consider a case's Solvability Factors when deciding whether or not to assign it.

2. Detective's Investigative Responsibilities – Anytime they are assigned a case, Detectives will call upon their training, experience, creativity, imagination and common sense when conducting investigations.

3. Lead Detective's Responsibilities – Once assigned a case as lead, the Lead Detective's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a. Proper investigation and handling of the case.
- b. Maintaining case files in accordance with policy.
- c. Pursuing a case until it can reach a Case Status of Closed.