

## RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entities and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Kathryn Nance /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief: Thomas Robinson /s/		
General Order No.: P-180-17	Issued: October 24, 2017	Revised: August 9, 2023
General Order Title: <b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATIONS</b>		

### I. POLICY

The Reno Police Department recognizes that Domestic Violence has serious consequences for involved families, first responders and the community which necessitates prompt and thorough investigation. The Department will investigate all reported incidents of domestic violence related crimes. The Department recognizes that victim-centered, pro-arrest philosophy and thorough, evidence based investigations are the most effective means to address domestic violence.

### II. DEFINITIONS

The Reno Police Department adheres to definitions of terms related to domestic violence listed in Nevada Revised Statutes Chapters 33, 171, 200 and 217 and in Reno Municipal Code.

### III. PROCEDURES

#### A. Domestic Violence Investigations in General

1. **Employee's Responsibilities** – Any employee investigating reports of domestic violence will adhere to the reporting, collection of statistics requirements and arrest requirements as required by state and local law. Employees will exhaust reasonable investigate efforts to develop probable cause. Employees who have developed probable cause will ensure efforts are underway to arrest the suspect within statutorily defined timelines. Additionally, contact Victim Services Unit (VSU) or the on-call Victim Advocate on every incident of domestic violent and will always contact VSU or the on-call Victim Advocate in the following situations:
  - a) When the suspect is arrested and in custody and the victim wants to pursue an Emergency Order for Protection.
  - b) When the suspect is not on scene and the victim is fearful that the suspect may return and wishes to be placed in a temporary shelter.
2. **Supervisor's Responsibilities** – Supervisors are responsible for ensuring employees fulfill their responsibilities, have the resources necessary pursuant to the complexity of the investigation, requesting assistance from other unit, making appropriate notifications, and ensuring case routing and status are entered in the department's case management

system.

**B. Domestic Violence Incidents Involving City Employees or Employees of Other Law Enforcement Agencies**

- 1. Employee's Responsibilities** – Notify a supervisor whenever an investigation in a domestic violence involves a City of Reno employee or a known employee of another law enforcement agency. A report will be completed in all cases, whether or not an arrest is made.
  
- 2. Supervisor's Responsibilities** – A sergeant will respond to every domestic violence incident involving a City of Reno employee or a known employee of another law enforcement agency.
  - a) In cases where a Reno Police Department non-sworn employee is involved, the supervisor may request an outside agency to investigate and will notify the involved employee's chain of command.
  - b) In cases where a Reno Police Department sworn employee is involved, the supervisor will request another agency respond to investigate. If no other agency is involved, the supervisor will notify the watch commander and ensure that a thorough investigation is completed and appropriate action is taken.
  - c) In cases where another law enforcement agency employee is involved, the supervisor will notify the highest ranking on duty employee of that agency.

In cases where a Reno Police Department employee is arrested for domestic violence, the on-scene supervisor will take the following actions:

- a) Place the employee on administrative leave pending determination of duty status by the Chief of Police/designee.
- b) Review all related reports.