



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

114 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

GENERAL ORDER: 2025-30
ISSUED: July 23, 2025

EFFECTIVE: July 23, 2025

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Nicole Waldner
DATE: May 29, 2025

ACTION: Amends General Order 2021-18 (September 3, 2021)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 6.3.9, 6.3.10

ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

114.10 MANDATORY ARREST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES REQUIRED BY STATE LAW

- A. [Wis. Stat. § 968.075\(2\)](#) defines mandatory arrest and states that a law enforcement officer shall arrest and take a person into custody if they have probable cause to believe that the person is committing or has committed domestic violence and that the person's actions constitute the commission of a crime and when the following are present:
2. The suspect's actions constitute domestic violence per [Wis. Stat. § 968.075\(1\)](#).
 - c. ~~1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree sexual assault.~~ A violation of [Wis. Stat. § 940.225\(1\), \(2\), or \(3\)](#) (sexual assault).

114.30 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE NOTIFICATION

- A. While at the scene, the investigating officer(s) shall advise the victim of the high danger assessment and of our standard protocol to contact a domestic violence advocacy service provider and to request the victim's authorization to release their information to the Domestic Violence Hotline.
2. Members shall also make this notification for Violation of Restraining Order or No Contact Order incidents where no new violence or threats occur if the victim and suspect's relationship meets the criteria for domestic violence in SOP 114.10(A).
- B. If the victim authorizes the release of their information, the investigating officer is also required to provide information to the Domestic Violence Hotline regarding the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) tool, located on the rear of the *Domestic Violence Supplementary Incident Report* (form PO-15D).
1. This tool helps identify those victims at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their partners.
 2. The goal of the LAP is to prevent domestic violence homicides, serious injury, and re-assault by encouraging more victims to use shelters, counseling, advocacy, and support services of domestic violence programs.

3. Members shall also complete the *Domestic Violence Supplementary Incident Report* for Violation of Restraining Order or No Contact Order incidents where no new violence or threats occur if the victim and suspect's relationship meets the criteria for domestic violence in SOP 114.10(A).
- C. If the victim does not authorize the release of their information, the investigating officer shall make an email notification prior to the end of their tour of duty to the Sensitive Crimes Division Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) at [REDACTED] and "cc" their shift commander.
1. The notification shall include the case number, victim's name, address, phone number(s), and any other information that would assist DVHRT with connecting to the victim. The member shall also include the purpose of the notification is that the victim refused to authorize officers to release their personal information.
 2. The DVHRT will assess each notification and coordinate with the district's Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO) to ensure that a secondary prompt is made with the victim within 72 hours to determine if the victim is willing to authorize law enforcement to release their information for the purpose of receiving resources.
- DG. Officers must also obtain the phone number(s) where the victim may be reached so he/she can also be notified if the suspect is released on bail. After providing all the requested information, officers shall hand the phone to the victim to talk directly to the worker.

114.35 REQUIRED REPORTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REVIEW PACKAGE (FORM PD-34)

4. ~~A CD-R of the domestic violence related photographs of the scene and victim's injury shall be included in this package, as well as body worn camera video that captures information relevant to the investigation.~~ Domestic violence related photographs of the scene and victim's injuries shall be imported in an unaltered state to Evidence.com in accordance with SOP 740 Forensic Evidence Collection.

C. REQUIRED INFORMATION IN INCIDENT REPORT

The officer taking the domestic violence report shall complete the original offense report and supplemental report(s) detailing the investigation in the RMS. An investigation shall be conducted and an offense report shall be filed for all cases of domestic violence, including those in which the victim does not desire prosecution. The report should include:

4. Children

- c. If officers determine that a child has been a victim of physical, sexual or serious emotional violence (as defined in [Wis. Stat. § 48.981](#)), they shall immediately notify their shift commander, who shall in turn contact the ~~Sensitive Crimes Division (SCD)~~ Criminal Investigation Bureau shift commander at extension

██████. In instances where the SCD CIB is not responding, investigating officers shall make the proper notification to the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services at 414-220-SAFE (7233) and investigate.

8. Photographs and Crime Scene Condition

- a. Properly document the crime scene by calling for a sergeant, crime scene trained officer (CST), forensic investigator, or community service officer to photograph all evidence relevant to the investigation, (e.g., injuries, physical evidence). If the member needs a forensic investigator or crime scene investigator, the member shall notify their shift commander. Shift commanders shall then notify the CIB at extension ██████ and the CIB shift commander shall determine if a CST, forensic investigator, or crime scene investigator will respond to the scene.

114.40 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM (DVHRT)

- A. The Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) is the recognized best practice by the United States Department of Justice for communities to address domestic violence cases at high-risk for lethality.
- B. DVHRT works with a multidisciplinary team of partners (as listed in the DVHRT Memorandum of Understanding) to discuss intervention and recommendations based on criteria indicating exceptionally high risk for lethality.
- C. DVHRT is responsible for teaching, training, conducting outreach, conducting follow up, conducting special operations, working in liaison with district domestic violence liaison officers, reviewing high risk cases, making recommendations, and any other specified tasks required by Sensitive Crimes Division (SCD) supervision.
- D. DVHRT is comprised of sworn members and civilians, including a crime analyst.

E. DVHRT INVESTIGATIVE ALERTS

1. The DVHRT is responsible for entering investigative alerts (DVHRT Alert) into RMS for victims or suspects who have been staffed by the DVHRT team.
2. This initiative is law enforcement-based and focused on victim and officer safety. Alerts will expire twenty-four (24) months from the individual's last "high risk" domestic situation. Notes in each alert will provide the officers with the necessary information and direct them to the recent incidents.
3. Investigating Member(s) Responsibilities
 - a. Investigating members shall document the results of wanted checks conducted in accordance with SOP 725.15(A)(14) including any hits for an Investigative Alert for a DVHRT notification in their RMS report.
 - b. Members do not need to contact the SCD when they come into contact with a person who has a DVHRT alert as this is simply an investigative tool to notify

responding officers and supervisors of the potential severity of the domestic situation with the individual before them.

- c. The investigating member should continue to conduct their investigation and follow protocol as expected. This alert is for information only and not the basis for arrest.
- d. The goal of the alert system is to provide critical information to responding officers on scene and enhance safety.
- e. Officers should not bring attention to the victim or suspect that either party has been staffed by the DVHRT or refer to abusers/victims as “chronic” or “repeat” abusers/victims.
- f. If the contact made is an additional or new domestic violence situation for the victim or suspect with an alert, members shall make a notification to their District Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO) at the conclusion of their investigation.

114.45 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIAISON OFFICER (DVLO)

The commander at each district shall designate a member to act as the domestic violence liaison officer. The DVLO responsibilities include:

- A. Attending meetings related to a district case that is being reviewed by the DVHRT. If the DVLO is unable to attend, they shall pass along any case information to the DVHRT coordinator (Sojourner Family Peace Center) in advance of the meeting whenever possible.
- B. Sharing information about involvement and/or history of cases being reviewed and involved parties. DVLO's shall keep information shared as confidential.
- C. Providing recommendations for each case staffed.
- D. Following through on agency-specific recommendations that the DVHRT has agreed to.
- E. Passing along any referrals from their colleagues to the DVHRT coordinator.
- F. Reviewing district domestic violence reports and identifying and conducting necessary follow up.
- G. Coordinating home visits and in-person outreach efforts whenever possible and as needed for safety reasons.
- H. Serving as consultants to fellow law enforcement officers at each district for best practices and next steps with cases.
- I. Conducting domestic violence related interrogations and interviews when available and when SCD DVHRT will not be conducting them.

- J. Wanted domestic violence suspect sweeps (will work with SCD for coordination efforts).
- K. Work with SCD on completing follow up requests made by the reviewing assistant district attorney.
- L. When applicable, re-interviewing victims at the request of an assistant district attorney or SCD when a victim discloses an unreported domestic violence incident during their charging conference.
- M. Attending quarterly DVLO meetings hosted by SCD DVHRT for updates and best practices.

114.4050 REQUIRED HANDOUTS FOR VICTIMS/ ORDER IN

114.4555 COURT ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

114.5060 MANDATORY ARREST FOR RESTRAINING ORDER / INJUNCTION VIOLATIONS

114.5565 TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER/INJUNCTION NOT SERVED

114.6070 SHIFT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Work location shift commanders shall be responsible for:

- 3. Confirming that an email notification was made to the DVHRT in accordance with SOP 114.30(C) if the victim did not authorize the release of their information to the Domestic Violence Hotline.
- 43. Approving the completed *Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Suspect Want*.
- 54. Approving the completed *Suspect Alert Report* for felony domestic violence suspects. In addition, a teletype shall be sent regarding felony suspects.
- 65. Ensuring that all necessary reports and copies required for liaison officer processing are filed and forwarded.
- 76. Ensuring that victims and witnesses are ordered to appear for case review.
- 87. Ensuring that all efforts to locate/arrest the suspect have been exhausted and properly documented on reports.
- 98. Making a reasonable effort to confirm the validity of out of jurisdiction orders of protection/injunctions and if the shift commander believes it to be valid, officers shall enforce the order according to the terms indicated. Out of jurisdiction orders are presumed valid if all of the following are present:
 - a. The order gives the name of the parties.
 - b. The order contains the date the order was issued, which is prior to the date when

enforcement is sought.

- c. If the order has an expiration date, the date of expiration has not occurred.
- d. The order is signed by or on behalf of a judicial officer.

Note: When in doubt, officers shall enforce the order and file the proper reports. Court liaison officers will have the reports reviewed at the district attorney's office.

114.6575 FIREARMS

E. DEPARTMENT SEIZURE OF FIREARMS

The Milwaukee Police Department Property Control Division is not authorized to receive firearms surrendered pursuant to court injunctions. However, firearms seized for a violation of a court injunction requiring surrender shall be placed on inventory as "evidence" for the felony crime under [Wis. Stat. § 941.29\(2\)\(1m\)](#) and retained by the Property Control Division.

F. RELEASE OF FIREARMS

- 1. No firearm may be released by any member of the department without first determining if an injunction is currently in effect and whether a court order is required for the release of firearms pursuant to [Wis. Stat. § 813.12\(4m\)\(b\)\(a\)](#); [813.122\(5m\)\(b\)\(a\)](#); or [813.125\(4m\)\(d\)](#).

114.7080 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS INVOLVING DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

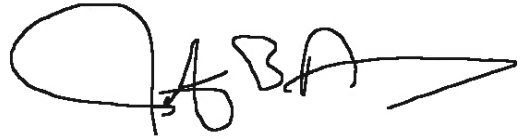
B. RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF MEMBER-INVOLVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- 3. ~~When a call of domestic violence involving a department member is received by the Technical Communications Division (TCD), the member taking the call shall immediately notify a supervisor.~~ If a call of domestic violence involving a department member is received at a work location other than TCD the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC), the member taking the call shall immediately transfer the call to TCD DEC and notify a supervisor. ~~A TCD supervisor shall ensure that a field supervisor and the appropriate number of officers are dispatched and respond to the incident.~~

D. COMMUNICATION AND FOLLOW-UP WITH VICTIMS

- 1. An Internal Affairs Division supervisor shall assign a member with knowledge of the case to assist the victim of officer-involved domestic violence in a coordinated and consistent manner throughout the investigation and judicial proceedings. In addition, the Internal Affairs Division shall partner with the commanding officer of the ~~Sensitive Crimes Division~~ SCD to ensure that victims and witnesses are afforded access to the programs and confidential services available through the department's

partnerships with domestic violence advocacy groups.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk