



Responding to Sex Offenses

.01 Policy

Officers shall respond to sex offense incidents and deal with victims while balancing the need to secure evidence against the distress the victim may be experiencing. Prince George's County Police are responsible for the investigation of rape.

.02 Terms

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

Maryland Criminal Law Article, §3-303 to §3-308

Forms:

Case Report (Automated).

Reference:

General Order 335 - Appendix A, Sexual Offenses Matrix.

General Order 400, Criminal Investigations.

General Order 405, Interview and Interrogation.

General Order 406, Crime Scene Processing.

.04 Procedure

A. Officer's Responsibilities

Officers responding to these incidents shall:

- Verify the incident;
- Provide medical aid to injured persons;
- Broadcast a lookout, if appropriate;

- Secure the crime scene;
- Notify the Criminal Investigations Unit; and,
- Complete a Case Report, the narrative need not be comprehensive.

Officers shall not take investigative action, such as responding to the suspect's home, without prior authorization from an investigator.

Unless the victim sustains physical injuries requiring immediate medical attention, do not have the victim transported to the Sexual Assault Center, Prince George's Hospital, until authorized by an investigator.

In no case shall an officer instruct the victim to contact the Sexual Assault Unit to report the assault.

B. Victim at Hospital

The reporting officer shall notify a criminal investigator. If no investigator is available, the officer will have Communications contact an investigator. An investigator shall respond to the hospital. The investigator shall not request removal of the victim to another location for interviewing. The reporting officer will complete a Case Report and document the notifications made.

HISTORY: Adopted October 1, 2013

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:

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