

Model Policy Checklist

by Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN

1. Provides a clear policy statement affirming that domestic violence is a crime and the department's commitment to respond as they would to any other assault or crime.
2. Clarifies and affirms that victim safety and offender accountability will be the standard for law enforcement intervention.
3. States that domestic violence is a pattern of controlling behavior, which, without intervention, becomes more destructive and potentially lethal over time.
4. Stresses mandatory arrest, with probable cause, as a crucial element in effective intervention.
5. Liability for the department vs. officer liability:
 - A. "Good Faith" liability exemption
 - 1) To protect the victim and carry out the intent of the law
6. Scope of the policy
 - A. Definitions
7. Initial Response Procedure
8. On-Scene Investigation
 - A. Investigation
 - B. Prior history
 - C. Gathering and preserving evidence
 - D. Interviewing

- E. Medical assistance and treatment
9. The Arrest Decision
- A. Authority to Arrest
 - B. Factors determining arrest is to be made
10. On-Scene Assistance to Victim and Dependents
- A. Notification of Rights
 - B. Medical/Shelter Transport
 - C. Standby guidelines
 - D. Assistance to elderly/child victims
11. Court Orders
- A. Service and Enforcement
12. Report Writing and Data Collection
13. Departmental safeguards to limit departmental and individual liability
14. Other Considerations
- A. Departmental training standards
 - B. 911 Dispatch procedures
 - C. Immigration issues
 - D. Prominent citizens, public officials, and police officers as offenders
 - E. Full Faith and Credit for foreign protection orders