

(Trim and Laminate)



### Domestic Violence Investigation Checklist

#### **Scene Description/Management**

- ✓ Take pictures of scene, victim, suspect, children
- ✓ Collect evidence and inventory property, (broken phone, torn clothing, bloody items, damaged walls, etc.)

#### **Victim/Suspect (Separate)**

- ✓ State relationship of victim to suspect
- ✓ What does suspect say happened? What does victim say? ( put each party's response in quotes)
- ✓ What did you observe related to the accounts of events/injuries?
- ✓ Describe injuries to both parties (type, size, location, color)
- ✓ Describe physical/emotional state of each party (crying, shaking, flushed face, etc.)
- ✓ Obtain name, address and phone number of someone who will know how to reach victim at all times

#### **Witnesses (children, neighbors, etc.)**

- ✓ Children present or involved? How?
- ✓ Interview away from parents.
- ✓ What did witnesses/child see or hear?
- ✓ Obtain thorough contact info for all witnesses

#### **General Follow-up**

- ✓ Is there an Order of Protection? Suspect on probation?
- ✓ Suspect and/or victim intoxicated? Describe.
- ✓ Medical attention required? Facility? Release signed?
- ✓ Suspect GOA? Ascertain whereabouts, assess dangerousness.
- ✓ Safety planning with victim

**Include all details in your report**

### Investigative Procedure

- Step 1. - Did either or both parties use force?
- Step2. - If both parties used force did either party use force in self-defense?
- Step 3. - If neither operate used force in self defense, was either party the predominant/primary aggressor?

#### **Self-Defense**

- ▶ Did either person believe they were in danger of being harmed? Was it a reasonable belief?
- ▶ Was the harm imminent?
- ▶ Was the responding force reasonable?

#### **Predominant/Primary Aggressor Considerations**

- ▶ severity of harm, injury
- ▶ who is most afraid
- ▶ relative size and strength
- ▶ credibility of the parties, prior history, likelihood of future harm

#### **Dangerousness Assessment**

*Ask victim these questions and include response in your report*

- ▶ Do you think suspect will seriously injure or kill you? Why or why not?
- ▶ What concerns do you have that suspect will use a weapon?
- ▶ Has suspect threatened suicide? When?
- ▶ Has suspect demonstrated behavior that s/he is obsessed with you or stalking you?
- ▶ What reaction has suspect had to a recent Order of Protection, divorce or separation?
- ▶ Has the suspect made threats against the children, new lover, police or the workplace?

**National Domestic Violence Hotline - 1-800-799-SAFE**

*Officer's Pocket D.V. Checklist*

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