

## Workplace Violence

### 415.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the guidelines for responding to incidents involving workplace violence.

#### 415.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Workplace violence** - The commission or threatened commission of an act of violence, harassment or stalking as defined under the Illinois Criminal Code of 2012 against a person at his/her place of work. Place of work means any property that is owned or leased by the employer and at which the official business of the employer is conducted, as defined by the Workplace Violence Prevention Act (820 ILCS 275/10).

### 415.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to investigate workplace violence as a serious crime and to facilitate employer and victim access to appropriate civil remedies and community resources whenever feasible.

### 415.3 INVESTIGATIONS

The following guidelines should be followed by officers when investigating workplace violence cases:

- (a) Calls of reported, threatened, imminent or ongoing workplace violence may also involve incidents of domestic violence. Members should consider whether a related domestic violence investigation should also be conducted, as provided in the Domestic Violence Policy.
- (b) Members should take reasonable steps to prevent any further workplace violence, including making an arrest where appropriate.
- (c) If the suspect is no longer at the scene, officers should make reasonable efforts to locate the suspect to further the investigation, provide the suspect with an opportunity to make a statement and make an arrest or seek an arrest warrant if appropriate.
- (d) Officers should advise the employer and victim about seeking medical attention and preserving evidence (specifically including photographs of injury or damage).
- (e) When completing an incident or arrest report for violation of a court order, officers should include specific information that establishes that the offender has been served, including the date the offender was served, the name of the agency that served the order and the provision of the order that the subject is alleged to have violated. When reasonably available, the arresting officer should attach a copy of the order to the incident or arrest report.

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- (f) All responses to calls of workplace violence should be documented in an appropriate report.

### **415.4 EMPLOYER AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

Officers should:

- (a) If a suspect is arrested, advise the employer and victim that there is no guarantee the suspect will remain in custody.
  1. Members should also provide the employer's and victim's contact information to the jail staff to enable notification upon the suspect's release from jail.
- (b) If no arrest is made, inform the victim of the victim's right to request that a criminal proceeding be initiated where appropriate, including specific times and places for meeting with the State's Attorney's office, a warrant officer, or other official in accordance with local procedure.
- (c) Provide the victim with the [department/office]'s domestic violence information handout, if appropriate.
- (d) Advise the parties of available resources, such as victim advocates, shelters, or other community resources.
- (e) Accompany the victim to their place of residence for a reasonable period of time to remove essential items of personal property if appropriate.
- (f) Seek medical assistance as soon as practicable for the victim if the victim has sustained injury or complains of pain.
- (g) Ask the victim whether they have a safe place to stay. Assist in arranging to transport the victim to an alternate shelter if the victim expresses a concern for their safety or if the officer determines that a need exists.
- (h) Make reasonable efforts to ensure that children or dependent adults who are under the supervision of the suspect or victim are being properly cared for.
- (i) Assist the employer and victim in obtaining an emergency order if appropriate.
  1. Victims may require assistance with transportation to apply for an emergency order of protection.
  2. Employers may apply for workplace protection orders if any act of violence, harassment, or stalking has been carried out or threatened to be carried out at the workplace (820 ILCS 275/15).
- (j) Officers who are investigating a workplace violence incident and encounter a workplace violence suspect who is on pretrial release for a domestic violence charge should attempt to determine if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the individual is violating a condition of pretrial release, for example by making contact or communicating with a domestic violence victim within 72 hours of release (725 ILCS 5/110-10(d)).