

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE

Course #5380-32343

Expanded Course Outline – revised February 2022

Statement of purpose:

This course will train Deputies on the recent Domestic Violence related law changes, POST guidelines for law enforcement response to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Investigations, Sexual Offender Registrations (SB384), and Gun Violence Restraining Orders.

I. Introduction - DVSA Detectives

- A. Welcome
 - 1. Housekeeping issues
- B. 13519 PC- mandated training every 2 years on Domestic Violence

II. Sonoma County Sheriff's Office DV policy

- A. Protect victim
- B. Domestic Violence is criminal behavior
- C. Facilitate victims' and offenders' access to civil remedies and community resources whenever feasible

III. Officer Safety

- A. Highly dangerous environments
 - 1. Exercise due caution and reasonable care

IV. Investigations

- A. Interviews
 - 1. Victim
 - 2. Suspect
 - 3. Witnesses
 - 4. Children
 - 5. Neighbors
- B. Children
 - 1. Complete FI's (and school if available) of each child present
 - 2. Document any additional children living in the household
 - 3. If children are present for DV incident, completed 11166 for each child
- C. Evidence
 - 1. Photographs
 - 2. Clothing
 - 3. 9-1-1 tape
 - 4. Weapon used
- D. DV History
 - 1. Reported/Unreported
- E. Medical records/293 PC advisement
 - 1. SCSO Page 4
- F. Firearms

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1. Lawfully seize per 18250 PC
- G. Suspect arrested
 1. Advise victim no guarantee suspect will remain in custody
 2. Provide victim's contact information to jail staff
 3. Advise victim whether any court order will be in effect
- H. Suspect not arrested
 1. Advise parties
 - a. Voluntary separation
 - b. Appropriate resource referrals
 2. Document resolution in report
- V. **Foreign court orders**
 - A. Enforcement
- VI. **Verification of court orders**
 - A. Subject's knowledge of order
 - B. Records and databases
 - C. Issuing court
 - D. Law enforcement official from order jurisdiction
- VII. **Legal mandates**
 - A. Standards for arrests
 1. Felony or misdemeanor
 2. Probable cause
 3. Citizen's arrests
 - B. Cite and release
 1. 853.6 PC
 - C. Dominant aggressor
 1. 13701 PC
 - D. DV order violation
 1. 13701 PC
 2. 836 PC
- VIII. **Report and Records**
 - A. Mandated reporting
 1. 13730 PC
 2. 18250 PC, 18255 PC
- IX. **Bail increase**
 - A. 1269c PC
- X. **Assessing lethality**
 - a. Domestic Violence is Dangerous
 1. Occurs every 15 seconds
 2. About 2.8 million incidents annually in the United States
 3. 40-60% of law enforcement calls are Domestic Violence related
 4. Escalates over time in frequency and severity

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5. Most dangerous time is when and after the victim leaves
- b. Medical Costs of Domestic Violence
 1. 500,000 women seek medical care each year for Domestic Violence
 2. 25-40% of all Domestic Violence victims are pregnant
 3. Medical personnel fail to identify Domestic Violence 95% of the time
 4. PC 11160 - Medical mandated reporting of Domestic Violence
- c. Workplace Violence Statistics
 1. Homicide is the leading cause of death for women on the job
 2. 94% of corporate security directors rated Domestic Violence as a “high security problem”
 3. 71% of human resources personnel reported they had experienced an incident of Domestic Violence on company property
 4. Abusive partners harassed 74% of women at work, causing 56% to be late at least 5 times per month
- d. Danger Signs
 1. Escalation
 1. Increase in frequency of incidents
 2. Increase in severity of injuries
 3. History of violence
 4. Extreme jealousy or possessiveness (Victim is central to abuser's identity and worth)
 2. Other Warning Signs
 1. Threats to kill
 2. Threats of suicide
 3. Access to and use of weapons
 4. Arson
 5. Pet abuse
 6. Stalking
 7. Abuse moves from indoors to public places
 8. Use of drugs and
 9. Forced sex
 3. Potential Triggering Events
 1. Birthdays
 2. Anniversary dates
 3. Special dates in relationship
 4. Change in Responses
 1. Finally appears to accept end of relationship
 2. Resignation
 5. E. Research and Indicators, Work of Dr. Donna Cohen on Elder Homicides – Suicides
 1. About 1,500 cases annually in the U.S. since 1988

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2. 83% involve spouses and intimate partners
 3. The perpetrator has always been the male partner
 4. Guns used more than 90% of the time
 5. 30% of cases had a history of Domestic Violence
 6. Involves an overvalued attachment of the suspect to the victim and a desire to maintain the integrity of relationship when threatened with separation or dissolution
 7. High incidence of untreated and undetected psychiatric problems, especially, depression
6. Lethality Assessment - Tennessee Case (student learning activity)
1. Read account provided
 - a. Look for at least eight lethality indicators listed in the information
 - b. Report back to the class
 2. Tennessee Case Indicators
 - a. Ex-wife
 - b. Set house on fire
 - c. Former deputy - access to weapons
 - d. Depressed
 - e. Ex-wife remarried
 - f. Jealous
 - g. Forced to resign for sexual assault of teen
 - h. Restraining order
 - i. Prior threats
 - j. Refused to accept divorce, later became resigned to it Stalking - watching with binoculars
 - k. Cut phone line
 - l. Charged with assault of a motorist
 - m. Victim had prior abusive relationships
 3. Lethality Assessment of Your Case (Student learning activity)
 - a. Create a lethality assessment for your case
 - b. Report back a number from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest) which rates the level of lethality
 - c. Provide reasons for your conclusion
 - d. Add the assessment to your report to assist the prosecution
 4. Lethality Assessment Information
 - a. Applying Assessment Information
 - b. Educate victims
 - c. Triage cases
 - d. Urge prosecutor to file at an appropriate level

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XI. Closing

A. Oral exam

B. Questions

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