



**SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS**



533.06

██████████ SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIONS

10-09-12

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for providing care to sexual assault victims and ensuring that proper investigative techniques are utilized in reported felony sexual assaults.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department that officers investigating felony sexual assaults make every effort to reduce the emotional trauma of the victim, collect information and evidence and follow proper investigative procedures.

PROCEDURE

A. INITIAL RESPONSE

1. If the question of jurisdiction arises, the officer's first obligation is to the victim. Provide medical aid and comfort to the victim and use caution not to destroy or alter physical evidence.
2. When responding to a sexual assault call officers shall
 - a. Determine if the suspect is gone.
 - b. Determine that a sexual assault has occurred and broadcast suspect(s) information.
 - c. Secure the crime scene and request Crime Scene Investigators (CSI).
 - d. Obtain preliminary victim/witness statements as soon as possible. ██████████
██████████
██████████
██████████
 - e. Arrange for transportation of the victim to Sutter Hospital at the BEAR exam office.
 - f. ██████████
██████████
 - (1) Upon notification of a rape examination by an officer, the Communications Center shall contact Sutter Hospital and advise the BEAR Team that a victim is en route.
 - (2) If the victim refuses examination, the reason(s) shall be noted on the report. ██████████
██████████
██████████.
 - g. Obtain the victim's address and phone number so that contact can be made by an investigator. If there is no address or phone number, as is the case with transient victims, ask the victim to contact the SACA Unit as soon as possible during office hours.
 - h. Provide the victim with a copy of the Domestic Violence Brochure (SPD 957), noting the section pertaining to sexual assaults.
 - i. Inform the victim that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless he/she requests that the name not be a matter of record. This information shall be noted on the report.
3. The watch commander will determine if a call out for a Sexual Assault/Child Abuse (SACA) detective is needed.

B. TRANSPORTATION OF RAPE VICTIMS

1. Officers shall ensure transportation home for victims after the sexual assault examination.
2. If possible, attempt to have a friend or relative of the victim respond to the hospital for emotional support and to provide transportation after the examination.
3. If there is no one available, the officer shall inform the victim that a Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE) representative can respond to the hospital. If the victim agrees, a WEAVE representative will remain with the victim and provide the transportation needed. If the victim does



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not have transportation home and refuses assistance from WEAVE, instruct the hospital to call the Communications Division to have an officer dispatched to provide transportation for the victim.

C. FIELD SUPERVISORS

Field supervisors shall notify the on-call SACA sergeant if

1. There is a complicated crime scene.
2. The crime is part of a series.
3. The victim's emotional condition indicates that a SACA detective should handle the initial interview.

D. EVIDENCE COLLECTION

1. [REDACTED]
2. The hospital will complete the Rape Examination Kit(s) and provide any additional evidence to the laboratory of Forensic Services.
 - a. The Rape Examination Kit(s) will be handled by the hospital staff and not booked as evidence into the Property warehouse.
 - b. Sexual assault tags shall be affixed to the outside of the booking locker if items of evidence require refrigeration.
3. Officers shall
 - a. Wear disposable latex gloves when handling evidence that may be contaminated with body fluids (e.g., blood, urine, semen, etc.)
 - b. Discard latex gloves after use, as outlined in General Order 522.05 (AIDS/Infectious Disease), and wash all exposed areas with hot water and soap.

E. DETECTIVES RESPONDING TO SEXUAL ASSAULTS

1. The on-call SACA detective shall assist in identifying and locating evidence to be collected and booked.

2. [REDACTED]