

CAPTURING EVIDENCE

STRATEGIES FOR CONDUCTING
THOROUGH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
INVESTIGATIONS



PRESENTED BY

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THE BLUE OPAL COLLECTIVE

RESPONDING TO THE CALL



SAFE
RESPONSE



SAFE
ARRIVAL



THE APPROACH



MAKING THE
SCENE SAFE

SLOW DOWN
CALM THE CHAOS

SEPARATE THE
PARTIES
(INCLUDING WITNESSES)

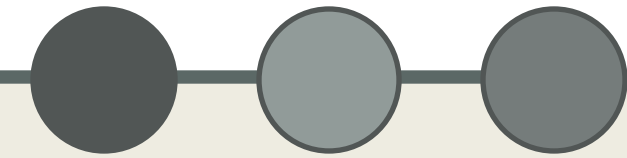
BE MINDFUL OF
YOUR
DEMEANOR

DON'T BE AFRAID
TO APOLOGIZE
FOR BEING ABRUPT

BE A HUMAN

However, SAFETY IS ALWAYS THE PRIORITY!

SCENE OBSERVATIONS



WHAT DO
YOU
HEAR?

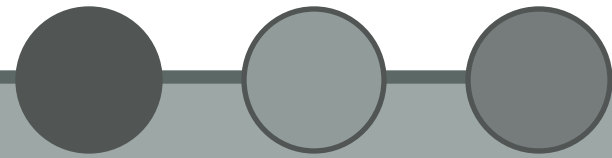
WHAT DO
YOU SEE?

NOTABLE
SMELLS

TACTILE
OBSERVATIONS

CAPTURE THE EXPERIENCE

PEOPLE OBSERVATIONS



INJURIES



LACK OF
INJURIES



DEMEANOR

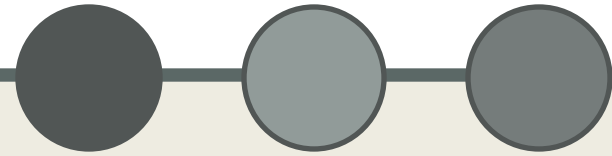


ACTIONS



CAPTURE THE EXPERIENCE

INTERVIEWS



KEEP ALL PARTIES SEPARATED

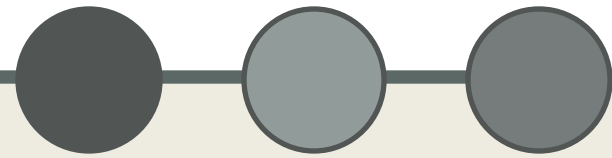
IDENTIFY ALL PARTIES (even those who left)

INTERVIEW INDEPENDENTLY

CONSIDER FORENSIC INTERVIEWS FOR JUVENILES

IS MIRANDA NEEDED?

INTERVIEWS



INTERVIEW ALL 911 CALLERS

ASK OPEN-ENDED & NON-LEADING QUESTIONS

CLARIFY CONFUSING LANGUAGE

CONTINUE ASKING QUESTIONS UNTIL YOU GET A CLEAR PICTURE

INVESTIGATE BEYOND WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW

ASK SENSORY QUESTIONS – CAPTURE THEIR EXPERIENCE

INTERVIEWS

INVESTIGATE FEAR & DYNAMICS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

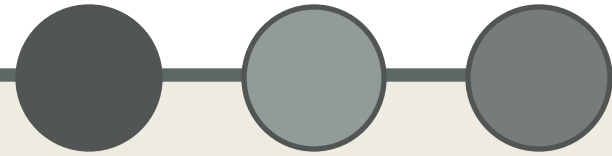
USE A VICTIM STATEMENT FORM AS AN INVESTIGATIVE GUIDE

ASK LETHALITY SCREENING QUESTIONS

BE HUMAN-CENTRIC

RECORD ALL CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES

INTERVIEWS



PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS SAID & HOW IT IS SAID

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT ISN'T SAID

BE ALERT FOR NON-RESPONSIVE RESPONSES

SCENE DOCUMENTATION

YOU ONLY GET
ONE CHANCE
AT A FRESH SCENE

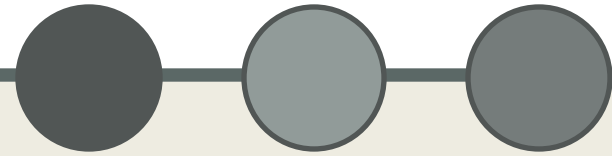
“FOUR CORNERS”
PHOTOS

PHOTOGRAPH
EVIDENCE IN
PLACE
BEFORE MOVING

PHOTOGRAPH
EVIDENCE IN
CONTEXT

RECORD THE
SCENE DOCUMENTATION

PERSON DOCUMENTATION



FULL BODY
TO SHOW PERSPECTIVE



CLOSE UP OF
INJURIES



PHOTOGRAPH A
LACK OF INJURY



DO NOT DELETE
BAD PHOTOS - SUBMIT ALL



FLEEING
SUSPECT
ASK FOR A PHOTO



CORROBORATION

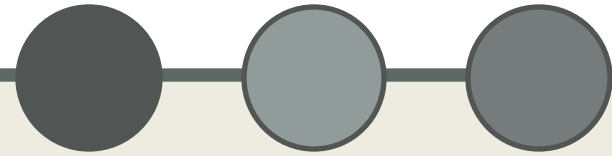
EVIDENCE OF
THE CRIME

EVIDENCE OF
THE FAMILY
RELATIONSHIP

EVIDENCE OF
TRUTHFUL
STATEMENTS

EVIDENCE OF
DECEPTIVE
STATEMENTS

EVIDENCE



COLLECT ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AT THE SCENE

PHOTOGRAPH MESSAGES, CALL LOGS, VIDEOS, ETC

AND/OR HAVE THEM SEND TO YOU WHILE STILL ON SCENE

LOOK FOR ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE SOURCES

COLLECT EVIDENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO, DURING, AND
AFTER AN EVENT

911 CALLS & DISPATCH NOTES

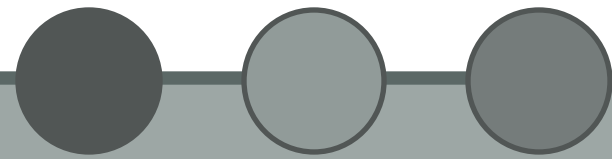


REVIEW DISPATCH NOTES PRIOR TO CONCLUDING AN ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION

CONSIDER REQUESTING & REVIEWING THE 911 CALL PRIOR TO CONCLUDING THE ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION

DETECTIVES RESPONDING TO A SCENE SHOULD REVIEW THE DISPATCH NOTES AND 911 CALL PRIOR TO THE SCENE INVESTIGATION AND PRIOR TO INTERVIEWING THE PARTIES

911 CALLS & DISPATCH NOTES

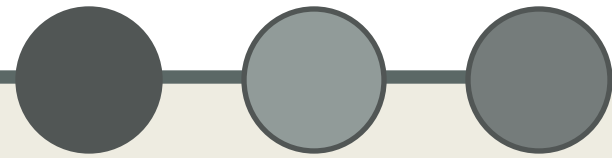


911 CALLS & DISPATCH NOTES SHOULD BE ARCHIVED FOR EVERY ARREST

CONSIDER ARCHIVING 911 CALLS AND DISPATCH NOTES FOR ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EVENTS (including non-criminal events)

RETENTION PERIODS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED EVENTS SHOULD NOT EXPIRE

INCIDENT REPORTS



NOTE ANY CAUTIONS AT THE TOP OF YOUR NARRATIVE

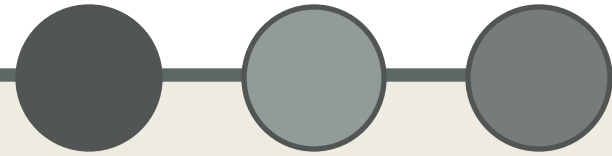
NOTE RELATED INCIDENT NUMBERS AT THE TOP OF YOUR NARRATIVE

DOCUMENT OBSERVATIONS

AVOID COMBINING THE TOTAL REPORTED EVENTS INTO ONE SUMMARY

DOCUMENT WHAT EACH PARTY REPORTED SEPARATELY (even if the same info)

INCIDENT REPORTS



WRITE ACCURATE DEPICTIONS

BE MINDFUL OF AND OMIT JUDGMENTAL LANGUAGE

BE SURE TO NOTE YOUR ACTIONS

FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATIONS



TRIAGE FOR ONGOING SAFETY

REVIEW THE 911 CALL & DISPATCH NOTES FOR EVERY CASE

REVIEW ON-SCENE REPORTS AND/OR BODY CAMERA VIDEO

REVIEW PHOTOS

REQUEST AND REVIEW EMS PATIENT CARE REPORTS

SEARCH CRIMINAL HISTORY – RAP SHEETS

FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATIONS



SEARCH INTERNAL RECORDS FOR PRIOR EVENTS

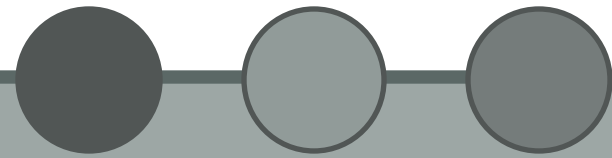
SEARCH DISPATCH NOTES FOR PRIOR EVENTS
(search by address & phone numbers even if the incident number is known)

CONSIDER SENDING RECORDS CHECK REQUESTS TO OTHER AGENCIES
WHERE PARTIES HAVE LIVED

COORDINATE WITH PROSECUTORS WHEN THERE ARE PENDING CASES

RECORD ALL FOLLOW UP INTERVIEWS

FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATIONS



ASK ABOUT WHAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE THE POLICE CONTACT

COLLECT ANY ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

CONSIDER FOLLOW UP PHOTOS

INJURIES SOMETIMES BECOME VISIBLE LATER
TO SHOW A PROGRESSION OF THE INJURIES

PHOTOGRAPH ANY NEW OCCURENCES SINCE THE ORIGINAL EVENT

REQUEST MEDICAL RECORDS (consent, subpoena, search warrant)

EXPLORE OTHER SUBPOENA AND/OR SEARCH WARRANT OPPORTUNITIES

HISTORICALS

INCLUDE
SUMMARIES
OF PAST
EVENTS INTO
THE NEW
NARRATIVE

ARCHIVE PAST
EVENTS WITH
THE NEW
EVENT CASE
FILES

BE AWARE PRIOR
CONVICTIONS
FOR CHARGE
ENHANCEMENTS

POST ARREST

RESEARCH
WHETHER
PROTECTIVE
ORDERS
WERE
ISSUED

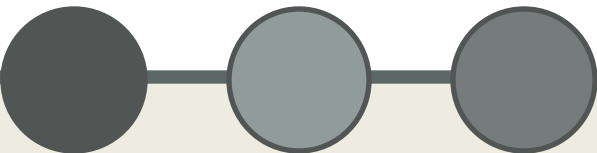
CONSIDER
IN-PERSON
COMPLIANCE
CHECKS

ARCHIVE,
MONITOR,
AND REVIEW
JAIL CALLS

CONSIDER COVERT
ALERTS

MONITOR
JAIL
MESSAGING
& MAIL

PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVITS



AVOID USING FULL NAMES OTHER THAN THE DEFENDANT'S

AVOID USING EXACT ADDRESSES – USE BLOCK RANGES INSTEAD

INTRODUCE THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

DESCRIBE HOW THE CALL INITIATED

INDEPENDENTLY DESCRIBE WHAT EACH PARTY REPORTED

PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVITS



INCLUDE LETHALITY RISK FACTORS

INCLUDE OTHER CURRENT AND PAST DANGEROUS ACTS

INCLUDE QUOTED STATEMENTS AND/OR TEXT MESSAGES

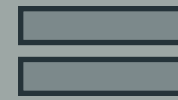
INCLUDE CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

USE BULLET POINT LISTS FOR INJURIES AND OTHER NON-NARRATIVE INFORMATION

THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS CAN SOMETIMES ALLOW FOR THE PROSECUTION OF CRIMES WITHOUT A VICTIM'S PARTICIPATION

THIS HELPS HOLD OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE WITH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF KEEPING VICTIMS SAFE.

EVIDENCE
BASED
INVESTIGATION
S



EVIDENCE
BASED
PROSECUTIONS

PLEASE REACH OUT

IF I CAN EVER HELP



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