



General Order: 2.10
DISTRICT ATTORNEY PROCEDURES FOR OFFICER INVOLVED
INCIDENTS

Effective: January 1, 1988
Last Revised: March 19, 2015

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for the use of Orange County District Attorney Investigators for officer-involved incidents.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Garden Grove Police Department to request that the Orange County District Attorney's Office conduct an independent investigation into any of the following incidents:

1. Officer-involved shooting resulting in injury or death
2. Custodial (holding cell) death or serious injury
3. Unusual death or serious injury case

An independent investigation requires that the District Attorney's investigative staff is in complete charge of the investigation. They originate all reports and coordinate all personnel. The police department will assign investigators to assist the District Attorney's Office, as necessary.

SCENE SECURITY AND SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification of an officer-involved incident that results in serious injury or death, a field supervisor will take command of the crime scene. The supervisor will insure that routine crime scene precautions are taken (separation of witnesses, preservation of evidence, assignment of police personnel). The supervisor will "freeze" the scene pending the arrival of the Orange County District Attorney's Office Investigators. If an officer is injured, the supervisor will assign a police officer to accompany the officer to the hospital.

Involved officers may remain at the scene; however, the field supervisor or ranking member of the department must assess the physical and emotional condition of the officers involved, if they are uninjured. Post-incident shock may occur. If the mental or emotional state of the officers suggests the need for medical attention, the supervisor or ranking officer at the scene shall make such arrangements.

THE INVOLVED OFFICER(S) SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED NOT TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC INCIDENT WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN AN ASSIGNED INVESTIGATOR OR A LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE.

If the death or injury is the result of the use of physical, non-lethal, or deadly force by an officer, the on-scene supervisor will complete a Use of Force Review memorandum and submit it to his Division or Unit Commander along with all applicable police reports.

NOTIFICATION

The Crime Against Persons (CAP) Sergeant will notify the District Attorney's Investigators utilizing the call-out roster provided by them. If the Crimes Against Property Sergeant is handling the incident in lieu of the CAP Sergeant, then he or she will notify the District Attorney's Investigators utilizing the call-out roster provided by them. The notifying investigative Sergeant will provide the following information:

1. Type of incident
2. Time of incident
3. Location
4. Extent of injuries or deaths
5. Number of witnesses or officers involved
6. Agencies involved
7. Official in charge of the scene

FORENSICS

The District Attorney's Investigators will notify and utilize the Orange County Sheriff's Department Forensic Science Team to conduct the collection, preservation, and examination of all evidence obtained during the course of the investigation.

The Crimes Against Persons (CAP) Sergeant or the Crimes Against Property Sergeant may notify the Orange County Sheriff's Department Forensic Science Team as part of his or her supervisory and/or investigative duties, providing the investigative Sergeant informs the District Attorney's Investigators that such a notification has been made.

The District Attorney's Investigators will notify the Coroner's Office, if applicable, and may consult with any pathologist, forensic scientist, medical expert or any other expert as deemed necessary to conclude the investigation.

The Crimes Against Persons (CAP) Sergeant or the Crimes Against Property Sergeant may notify the Coroner's Office as part of his or her supervisory and/or investigative duties, providing the investigative Sergeant informs the District Attorney's Investigators that such a notification has been made.

REPORTING

The District Attorney's Investigators will collect and package all reports from all investigation sources and be responsible for maintaining the master case file on the incident. The investigators will be responsible for initiating the official written report of all interviews. The police department's joint investigation will be documented in police reports and memorandums, as necessary.

A copy of the completed investigative package will be delivered to the Chief of Police or his designee. These reports will ultimately be filed by the Internal Affairs Unit Sergeant.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The District Attorney's Office will request that the police department limit the content of any media release to the following information:

1. Information that is contained in public record
2. That an investigation is in progress
3. The general scope of the investigation, including a description of the offense
4. A request for public assistance in apprehending a suspect or in any other matters relating to the incident

Employees must adhere to the guidelines and procedures established in General Order 2.15 - Public Information.