

"Keep Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods."

**ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1508.0, SPECIAL VICTIMS RESPONSE TEAM**

EFFECTIVE:	3/29/16
RESCINDS:	
DISTRIBUTION:	ALL EMPLOYEES
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY:	VIOLENT CRIMES SECTION COMMANDER
ACCREDITATION CHAPTERS:	NONE
CHIEF OF POLICE:	ORLANDO ROLON

CONTENTS:

1. DEFINITIONS
2. SPECIAL VICTIMS TEAM COMMANDER/COORDINATOR
3. TEAM MEMBER SELECTION
4. TRAINING
5. UTILIZATION OF A SPECIAL VICTIMS TEAM MEMBER

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Orlando Police Department to use, whenever possible, a specially trained group of sworn officers who will be first responders to incidents involving sex crimes and crimes against children. This policy establishes operational guidelines for the use of the Special Victims Response Team (SVRT).

PROCEDURES:

1. SPECIAL VICTIMS RESPONSE TEAM COMMANDER/COORDINATOR

The Special Victims Response Team (SVRT) Commander is the Violent Crimes Section Commander, as designated by the Chief of Police. The team shall also have a Coordinator (the Special Victims Unit supervisor or designee), who will assist with the administrative and operational directives.

2. SELECTION PROCESS

The Special Victims Response Team will conduct a selection process for new members when there is an anticipated opening. This process will be scheduled at the discretion of the SVRT Commander. Any sworn member who has completed his/her probationary period, and is in good standing, may request consideration for assignment. The following traits may be considered when selecting an applicant to fill a vacancy on the Special Victims Response Team:

- a. Communication skills.
- b. Active listening skills.
- c. Ability to work well under pressure.
- d. Investigative skills.
- e. Ability to be sensitive to the needs of victims of sexual battery and child abuse.
- f. Ability to exercise good judgment and decision-making skills.

The SVRT Commander will review each applicant's packet, and has final authority for selection to the team.

3. TRAINING

Once appointed to the Special Victims Response Team, the member will be required to attend a basic SVRT training class and quarterly training, and, within six months, successfully complete the 40-hour CJI Sex Crimes course or equivalent. The SVRT Commander and/or Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling all training sessions.

The SVRT training is mandatory. If a member is unable to attend training, he/she must notify the SVRT Commander as soon as possible. Repeated absences from training shall result in the member's removal from the team.

4. UTILIZATION OF A SPECIAL VICTIMS TEAM MEMBER

4.1 SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

Special Victims Unit is responsible for the following investigations:

- a. Sexual battery
- b. Home intrusion in which a sexual battery is attempted or occurs
- c. Child abduction, to include kidnapping or false imprisonment of a victim 17 years of age or younger
- d. Interference with custody
- e. Lewd or lascivious crimes, to include lewd and lascivious battery, molestation, conduct and exhibition
- f. Child exploitation crimes, to include domestic minor human/sex trafficking, internet crimes against children and child pornography. These may include, but are not limited to, procuring a child for prostitution, use of a child in a sexual performance, computer child pornography, and soliciting sexual acts with a child via the Internet.
- g. Child abuse
- h. Child neglect
- i. Lost or missing children, including runaways
- j. Obscene phone calls
- k. Sexual Offenders and Predators

4.2 SPECIAL VICTIMS RESPONSE TEAM

When possible, an SVRT member shall offer their assistance in the following incidents:

- a. Sexual battery
- b. Lewd or lascivious crimes, to include lewd and lascivious battery, molestation, conduct and exhibition
- c. Child exploitation crimes, to include domestic minor human/sex trafficking, internet crimes against children and child pornography. These may include, but are not limited to, procuring a child for prostitution, use of a child in a sexual performance, computer child pornography and soliciting sexual acts with a child via the Internet.
- d. Child abuse
- e. Child neglect
- f. Human trafficking

When practical, SVRT member should take the primary role in the initial investigation for incidents listed in this section. SVRT members are still obligated to follow other standing written directives.