

Policy: 1113.19, Initial Police Reports

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Distribution Group: All Employees

Review Responsibility: Criminal Investigations Division Commander

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Contents

- I. PURPOSE**
- II. POLICY**
- III. DEFINITIONS**
- IV. PROCEDURES**
 - 1. DOCUMENTATION**
 - 2. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS**
 - 3. ADDITIONAL SITUATIONS REQUIRING AN INCIDENT REPORT**
 - 4. SITUATIONS NOT REQUIRING AN INCIDENT REPORT**
 - 5. VICTIMS RIGHTS BROCHURE**
 - 6. INCIDENT REPORT REQUESTS**
 - 7. FIELD INTERVIEW REPORTS (FIRs) AND PHOTOGRAPHS**
 - 8. TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS**
 - 9. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**
 - 10. OVERTIME OR EXTRA-DUTY REPORTS**
 - 11. SUPERVISORS REPORT REVIEW**
 - 12. INCIDENT-BASED (IBR) DATA INTEGRITY AND CASE MERGE PROCEDURES**
- V. FORMS AND APPENDICES**
- VI. REFERENCES**

I. PURPOSE

Employees will conduct a thorough, comprehensive, and complete preliminary investigation. If the investigation reveals that a crime has been attempted or committed, the employee will document the information on a police Incident Report. Employees will complete all additional paperwork required.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Orlando Police Department to document reported and suspected crimes and criminal activity occurring within its jurisdiction.

Additionally, certain noncriminal events, situations, and circumstances as specified in this directive will also be documented.

III. DEFINITIONS

None

IV. PROCEDURES

1. DOCUMENTATION

The following illustrates the procedure for the documentation of criminal activity.

1.1 CRIMES OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

When responding to a call concerning an alleged crime, the assigned employee will conduct an investigation, which will include, but is not limited to, completing a detailed report, obtaining witness/victim statements, canvassing the neighborhood, processing or having the scene processed, and ensuring all pertinent evidence is collected.

When an employee's name is initially listed in an official police document, i.e., Incident Report, Charging Affidavit, Uniform Traffic Citation, or Notice to Appear, the employee number shall be listed immediately following every employee name. For example, the entry would appear as follows: Officer John Doe 9999. The employee number would be required for the first entry only of the employee's name in the document.

1.2 FELONY CRIMES OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Felony crimes or criminal activity will be documented on an Incident Offense Report. Felony traffic offenses may be documented on a crash report.

1.3 MISDEMEANOR CRIMES OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

All misdemeanor crimes or criminal activity shall be documented in an Incident Offense Report or charging affidavit.

Minor neighborhood or retail disputes may not require documentation if:

- a. Physical violence or property damage has not occurred, and
- b. The dispute is resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, and
- c. The victim does not want a report

In misdemeanor arrest or notice to appear cases, the following applies:

- a. All officers shall complete an OPD arrest report in addition to the charging affidavit.

- All witnesses, including responding officers, will be listed on the charging affidavit at the bottom of the page.
- The witness information will include both home and work addresses and phone numbers.
- b. Arrest affidavits must be completed and submitted as directed in current procedures. Arrest affidavits must first be downloaded from the website and then uploaded as an attachment to the field report.
- c. In cases where there is additional relevant information that is not documented in the charging affidavit, members should complete an Incident Offense Report to document such additional information.

Officers shall submit adult misdemeanor case files to their immediate supervisor within three calendar days, including the date of arrest. Officers should submit all juvenile misdemeanor case files, except cases filed at-large, to their immediate supervisor within 24 hours of the time of the arrest.

1.4 ONLINE REPORTING

Citizens wishing to file a Police Report online will be directed to the City of Orlando's website (www.orlando.gov) or the Orlando Police Department's Website, <http://www.orlando.gov/police/index.htm> providing the following required criteria are met:

- a. The reported incident does not require an emergency response.
- b. The reported incident does not involve any type of weapon.
- b. The reported incident occurred within the limits of the City of Orlando, Florida.
- c. There are no known suspects.
- d. The reporting party is at least 18 years of age.
- e. There is no evidence to be collected or processing required.
- f. Only the following incidents will be reported via online reporting:
 - i. Lost Property
 - ii. Vandalism
 - iii. Petit Theft
 - iv. Harassing Phone Calls
 - v. Pickpocket
 - vi. Vehicle Burglary
 - vii. Fraud Cases (via Report Identity Theft Link)
 - viii. Other incidents as determined by the Criminal Investigations Division Commander

NOTE: Officers shall always complete investigations in all vehicle burglary and other property crimes. Only in special circumstances and with supervisory approval is an officer permitted to offer the victim of a vehicle burglary the option to complete an online report, i.e., the property is no longer available for processing or the victim cannot wait for the officer to obtain a written statement and process the scene.

2. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

The employee taking the information will complete the initial report as soon as possible. In all cases, the report shall be completed before the end of the employee's tour of duty, unless the immediate supervisor approves a delay. When the employee's computer is down, reports will be completed on common computers.

All reports of stolen vehicles, missing persons, and stolen property with serial numbers will be forwarded to Teletype by the employee taking the report.

An Incident Offense Report **MUST** be submitted before the employee goes back in service for all missing/recovered persons and property crimes which would require teletype entries (i.e., recovered/stolen vehicles, stolen tags, thefts where a serial number is known), unless supervisory approval or exigent circumstances exist.

An Incident Report must be submitted by the end of the shift (including supplemental reports) for the following:

- a. All felony crimes.
- b. All cases where a vehicle was towed and held.
- c. Any fraud or forgery case (Economic Crime Unit) in which a suspect is known (not AKAs).
- d. Missing/recovered persons.
- e. Home invasions.
- f. All occupied residential burglaries.
- g. Sexual batteries.
- h. Lewd acts.
- i. Exposure cases.
- j. Elderly abuse.
- k. Child abuse.
- l. All incidents/calls for service where contact is made by or initiated by the Department of Children and Families, Child Protective Investigators (children)/Adult Protective Investigators (adult).
- m. Homicide.
- n. Robberies.
- o. Assault and batteries.
- p. Domestic violence or Dating Violence.
- q. Stalking.
- r. Kidnapping.
- s. Arson.
- t. All misdemeanor at-large (PC) affidavits.
- u. Newsworthy incidents, e.g., public figures.
- v. Incidents requiring a Response to Resistance investigation, except for misdemeanor incidents where the use of a chemical agent is the sole response to resistance and there are no injuries, claimed or evident.
- w. Custody Disputes

All other reports must be completed within 24 hours, with supervisory approval. The employee must notify his or her supervisor and get permission to hold a report until the next day. Under no circumstance will a report be held if the employee is not working the next day.

All reports requiring entry into Teletype (i.e., missing persons, stolen vehicles, or property) will be forwarded to Teletype by the reporting employee. Once Teletype confirms the entry and the report match, Teletype will route a copy of the entry of missing persons, stolen vehicles, and guns to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

2.1 SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

All supplemental reports by the Criminal Investigations Division personnel shall be completed within the following timeframe:

- a. Supplement reports by detectives shall be completed every 90 days on assigned lead cases to update the progress of assigned lead cases that remain open. Case notes shall be current to document investigative efforts taken in between supplemental reports. In cases of open homicide and missing adults (where no endangerment exists), supplemental reports will be submitted by June 30 of each year to update the case progress.
- b. Detectives shall complete a supplemental report within 7 days of closing/inactivating a case where changes were file at-large or an arrest warrant was obtained.

A supplement will be completed for the recovery of missing persons, stolen vehicles, or other stolen property. The reporting employee is responsible for assuring Teletype has removed the person or property from NCIC/FCIC and shall indicate such in the report. Teletype will route the cancellation to CID. CID detectives will ensure that the cancellation is correct.

Use the original case number on all supplemental reports.

2.2 EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC RECORDS DISCLOSURE

Florida Statute [119.071\(4\)\(d\)2.](#), exempts certain information relating to current and former sworn or civilian law enforcement personnel, correctional and correctional probation officers, prosecutors, and judges by excluding from public inspection: home addresses, personal telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs. The same statute exempts certain information relating to family members of such personnel by excluding from public inspection: names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel, and the names and schools and locations of schools and daycare facilities attended by the children of such personnel. OPD Staff submitting the report shall provide the Exempt From Public Record Disclosure Form (See Attachment B) to the individual requesting exemption from public records.

Any information (including name, address, photograph, etc.) that reveals the identity of a victim of sexual battery, sexual offense, or child abuse is exempt from public records disclosure as provided in Florida Statutes, Chapter 119. These exemptions are automatic and do not require the victim to request anonymity (See current version of OPD P&P 1403, Investigating Sexual Offenses, for exempt forms).

In addition, there are other possible public records exemptions for victims of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence or dating violence. If one of these victims files a written request for this exemption, including official verification (police report) that the applicable crime has occurred, then the exemption in Florida Statute 119.071(2)(j)1, (2012) will apply. For five years thereafter, any information that reveals their home or employment telephone number, home or employment address, or personal assets, is exempt from public disclosure. Officers shall inform these victims of their rights and provide a copy of the Exemption from Public Records Disclosure form (available in the Quartermaster Unit). Completed forms shall be routed to the Report Review/Information Unit for entry. (See current OPD P&P 1403, Investigating Sexual Offenses, for exempt forms).

If the form is completed, the officer shall include a statement in the narrative of the Incident Offense Report indicating such.

2.3 ONLINE REPORTS

The Report Review/Information Unit (RRIU) will review all online submitted incidents, Monday through Friday. Should all the required criteria be met, the Report Review/Information Unit will approve the report and assign a permanent case number. The complainant will be notified via email that the report has been accepted and will be provided with the permanent case number. In cases where a victim provides a serial number or "owner applied number" for all bicycles (E-bikes and electric scooters included), office equipment, or television sets, approved reports shall be forwarded by RRIU to Teletype for entry. Should the report not meet the required criteria, a member of the Report Review/Information Unit will notify the complainant via email with an explanation on the proper way to proceed. Approved online submitted reports shall be processed and forwarded in the same manner as all other Incident Offense Reports.

2.4 REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of reports to specialized units within the Department shall be accomplished by the Report Review/Information Unit during the merging process in LERMS.

2.5 REPORT WRITING GUIDE

All reports that are covered by the Report Writing Guide will be completed according to the guide. The guide is available on OPD Online under the Training tab.

2.6 WITNESS AND VICTIM STATEMENTS

Witness/victim statements will be obtained by the initiating employee in ALL criminal cases. Statements will be obtained on ANY case involving transient or non-local victims, whether the subject responsible for the criminal offense has been identified or not. If the victim does not desire prosecution, employees will complete the witness/victim Statement form (Attachment A) and instruct the victim to sign the declination to prosecute section or initial the intent to prosecute section **for all investigations except domestic violence or dating violence investigations. For domestic violence or dating violence cases, the Statement form shall be utilized; however, officers shall not ask domestic violence or dating violence victims about prosecution nor allow them to sign the declination to prosecute section on the Statement form.**

2.7 CASE ASSIGNMENT

The investigative sergeant may assign a case to the initiating and/or arresting officer when:

- a. Requested by the initiating officer.
- b. An on-view arrest or probable cause arrest has been made and the case is complete.
- c. An on-view arrest or probable cause arrest has been made, or should have been made, and the case can be completed with a minimum of effort.

2.8 LOST PROPERTY

It is not necessary to complete a report on all lost property. An incident number will be issued if the person is calling the Police Department to document the loss to have the insurance company replace their telephone, etc. The information required to document the incident will include the person's name, home address, home and work telephone numbers, race, sex, date of birth, location of occurrence, and the description of the property (e.g., cellular telephone, driver's license, passport, etc.). This information will be documented by calling the Information Desk. The disposition code assigned shall be PL (property lost).

3. ADDITIONAL SITUATIONS REQUIRING AN INCIDENT REPORT

In addition to crimes, the following activities, events and situations will require an Incident Offense Report:

- a. Any personal injury or event that might result in liability or a claim against the City (e.g., an injury occurring on City-owned or operated property, or due to actions by a City employee).
- b. All drowning incidents or near-drowning incidents requiring medical attention.
- c. All suicides or attempted suicides (including statements or conduct resulting in a Baker Act).
- d. Major transportation, industrial, or chemical accidents.
- e. Natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, tornados, etc.) causing personal injury or property damage. The supervisor in charge of the scene will assign an officer to complete a police Incident Offense Report. The supervisor should advise the officer of the facts/points to be included in the report.
- f. Damage of \$50 or more to any City-owned property where no criminal activity is suspected and which is not likely to cause City liability.
- g. Found property where the owner is known and the property is not immediately returned.
- h. Any injury of a questionable nature which could be the result of a crime committed against, or by, the injured person.
- i. Any time an individual is taken into protective custody (e.g., detaining a substance abuse impaired person).
- j. All involuntary Marchman Act admissions to either the jail or a medical facility. (See the current issue of P&P 1208, Substance Abuse Services.)
- k. All "police-related" actions resulting in an arrest or other activity (e.g., physical detention) taking place outside the City limits of Orlando, when the officer has not been deputized or does not have the explicit legal authority to take such action in the jurisdiction of the event.
- l. Whenever ordered by a superior or when the employee feels the event, situation, or circumstances should be documented.
- m. All Baker Act admissions by an officer shall require a police Incident Offense Report and the completion of state form CF-MH 3052a. (See the current version of P&P 1114, Mental Health Cases [Baker Act].)
- n. Seizure of any property, including firearms or other weapons, whether or not criminal charges are filed.
- o. Whenever there is an unlockable/unsecured vehicle with property inside that cannot be properly secured, and the officer places the items into OPD Property and Evidence.

4. SITUATIONS NOT REQUIRING AN INCIDENT REPORT

The following situations, where death occurred and foul play was not suspected, will not require an Incident Offense Report:

- a. Any apparently natural death involving a Hospice program, VITAS, ORMC Home Health Care, Florida Hospital Home Health Care, or other licensed home healthcare agency will be treated as a medically attended death. The body may be removed without prior notification to the Medical Examiner if all the following conditions are met:
 1. A licensed home healthcare nurse, attending physician, paramedic/EMT, or law enforcement officer must be present at the scene after the patient's death.
 2. A physician's statement or a signed DNR order must be readily available at the patient's house indicating he or she will sign the death certificate. Verbal confirmation by the family that the patient was under the care of a hospice organization is also sufficient. If the officer has any questions as to the status of the patient, they shall notify the medical examiner's office.
 3. Law enforcement must be notified if any indication of foul play, trauma, suspicion of suicide, or other suspicious cause of death exists, and the death must subsequently be reported to the Medical Examiner.

When all conditions are met, and the death is deemed to be the result of the terminal illness, the funeral home may be contacted to make the removal without prior approval of the Medical Examiner.

- b. Any death at a nursing home is considered an attended death, like a hospital death, and no report is needed.
- c. Any unattended death appearing natural and both the Orange County Medical Examiner's Office and the on-scene officer agree that no foul play is suspected. The officer will assist the Orange County Medical Examiner's Office with the body and then obtain a case number. The officer would clear the call with a "no report required" disposition. The assigned primary officer should make every attempt to notify the next-of-kin. If the officer cannot locate any next-of-kin, before the end of their tour of duty, they should initiate an Incident Offense Report. This report will be forwarded to the Homicide Unit for further follow up. Additionally, officers shall adhere to the procedures for the Decedent's Property outlined in the current version of P&P 1123, Property & Evidence.

A report is not required for found property or drugs being placed into the Property and Evidence Section where the owner cannot be determined, or the property has no identification number. A brief explanation of the find will be written on the back of the hard copy of the evidence form. A case number and evidence number will be obtained and a disposition of "ZZ, G" given.

5. VICTIMS RIGHTS BROCHURE

Employees shall complete the first page of the Victims' Rights Brochure and provide the brochure to every victim of a crime. The Victims' Rights Brochure contains detailed information about the rights and obligations of victims and witnesses. Employees should refer to the current version of P&P 1131, Victim Assistance and Notification, for additional instruction.

6. INCIDENT REPORT REQUESTS

All requests for copies of Incident Offense Reports will be referred to the Records Unit. For guidelines on releasing other reports or information, refer to the current version of P&P 2304, Release of Information to the Media, and the current version of P&P 2302, Public Records Requests.

7. FIELD INTERVIEW REPORTS (FIRs) AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Refer to the current version of P&P 1111, FIRs (Field Interview Reports) and Photographs, for procedures on documenting information obtained during field contacts with suspicious persons.

8. TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS

All motor vehicle crashes shall be documented as required by law and following to the procedures outlined in the Traffic Operations Manual.

Traffic crash reports shall be completed electronically via the Computer Based Crash Reporting System. A sergeant or supervisor shall review each report before submission. Once submitted, traffic crash reports are stored with the Division of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Copies of reports can be obtained either online or from the Records Unit according to statutory guidelines.

9. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Significant event entries will be made at the same time the field report is generated. The narrative will be a synopsis of the event. Names or addresses of sexual battery victims will not be in the narrative nor there any information that could be used to identify them.

Employees will complete an event sheet for the following incidents:

- a. Abduction.
- b. Arson.
- c. Auto theft with arrest.
- d. Burglary:
 - i. Auto burglary with arrest or potential pattern.
 - ii. Business burglary, actual or attempted.
 - iii. Occupied residential burglary, residential burglary with loss over \$5,000 and/or potential pattern or arrest.
- e. Civil disturbance.
- f. Homicide.
- g. Aggravated battery.
- h. Aggravated assaults.
- i. Intelligence information for other watches (e.g., mental cases, potentially violent subjects).
- j. Sexual battery.
- k. Shootings.
- l. Robbery:
 - i. Armed.
 - ii. Strong-arm with injury or potential pattern.

- m. Industrial accidents or chemical spills.
- n. Missing persons under 12, mentally incompetent adults, and others when unusual circumstances exist.
- o. Natural disasters with major damage and/or requiring significant Departmental resources.
- p. Resisting arrests with violence/battery on LEO.
- q. Any event deemed necessary by the watch/section commander

10. OVERTIME OR EXTRA-DUTY REPORTS

Employees completing reports while working overtime or on extra-duty will contact the on-duty patrol supervisor in the sector of origination. The supervisor will be advised of the report number and the payroll number of the person completing the report. Supervisors/ASLs will review these reports along with their squad's reports.

11. SUPERVISORS REPORT REVIEW

All supervisors shall review and approve all reports completed by their squad and overtime and extra-duty employees working in their sector for accuracy, elements of the crime, and procedural issues by the end of their shift. Review and approval of reports will be accomplished via a computer terminal. Supervisors may make grammatical corrections to reviewed reports. Any changes regarding the synopsis of events and/or elements of the crime must be made by the submitting employee.

The Report Review/Information Unit will not make any changes to the report. Once merged, the original report cannot be changed or corrected. If any errors are found after the report has been merged, an email will be sent to the officer and his/her supervisor requesting a supplement to verify or add information, such as a Teletype entry, etc.

12. INCIDENT-BASED (IBR) DATA INTEGRITY AND CASE MERGE PROCEDURES

12.1 REPORT REVIEW UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

Report Review Unit shall be responsible for reviewing all submitted case reports to ensure report accuracy, completeness, and compliance with reporting standards prior to merging into the Law Enforcement Records Management System (LERMS).

- a. Report Review Unit shall verify that all pertinent case report information, including but not limited to offense details, victim/offender data, property information, location details, and applicable statutory codes, are properly documented and accurately reflected within the case file.
- b. Only error-free reports meeting all reporting requirements shall be approved for final merge into LERMS for submission under Incident-Based Reporting (IBR) standards.
- c. Reports identified with deficiencies, omissions, or inaccuracies prior to merge shall be returned to the originating employee for correction in accordance with established report correction procedures.

12.2 POST-MERGE ERROR CORRECTIONS

Any case report errors, omissions, or data discrepancies discovered after the initial report has been merged into LERMS shall become the responsibility of the Report Review Unit.

- a. Report Review shall review post-merge error notifications and perform all necessary corrections to ensure data accuracy and continued compliance with state and federal IBR reporting requirements.
- b. Report Review shall coordinate with the appropriate reporting personnel, supervisors, or investigative units when additional clarification or documentation is required to resolve reporting discrepancies.
- c. All post-merge corrections shall be completed in a timely manner to avoid reporting delays, statistical inaccuracies, or noncompliance with IBR submission deadlines.

12.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE AND COMPLIANCE

The Report Review Unit shall maintain collaborative oversight of report accuracy to ensure the integrity of all IBR submissions and compliance with applicable reporting mandates.

V. FORMS AND APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT A-Statement Form

ATTACHMENT B-Exemption from Public Record Form

VI. REFERENCES

This policy rescinds Policy and Procedure 1113.18

Related Policies: Not Applicable

Related Laws: Florida Statute [119.071](#)