

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

DIRECTIVE MANUAL

6.09 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Approved By:	Todd Chamberlain, Chief of Police
Effective:	Sep-01-1998
Revised:	Mar-23-2026
Associated Policy:	DM 8.10, DM 6.11, DM 8.20
References:	C.R.S. § 18-6-800.3; APD Forms 308
Review Authority:	Professional Standards and Training Division Chief and APD Legal Advisor(s)

6.9.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish clear procedures and delineate responsibilities for investigating and documenting incidents involving domestic violence, as well as for appropriately applying the relevant domestic violence enhancer. This directive ensures that all domestic violence cases are handled consistently and in accordance with state and local laws.

6.9.02 SCOPE

This directive applies to all members of APD.

6.9.03 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this directive, “Domestic Violence” and “Intimate Relationship” shall have the meanings as defined in Colorado Revised Statutes 18-6-800.3.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence in Colorado is not a separate charge, but a sentence enhancer that attaches to another underlying offense (such as assault, criminal mischief, harassment, etc.) when certain relationship criteria are met. As defined in C.R.S. § 18-6-800.3(1), Domestic Violence is an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence also includes any other crimes against a person or against property, including an animal, or any municipal ordinance violation against a person or property, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. Incidents involving same-sex partners are classified as domestic violence when an intimate relationship exists.

Intimate Relationship: A relationship between spouses, former spouses, current or past unmarried partners, or persons who are both the parents of the same child, regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.

6.9.04 POLICY

The Aurora Police Department recognizes all domestic violence complaints as potential criminal offenses. Incidents involving Domestic violence present unique dynamics that distinguish them from other criminal cases. Accordingly, such incidents will be investigated with the same attention to detail and thoroughness as any other crime, with the expectation of a mandatory arrest when probable cause is established.

6.9.05 ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES

If a sworn member develops probable cause during the investigation of a domestic incident, a physical arrest of the offender is mandatory under C.R.S. § 18-6-803.6. Ordinary misdemeanors typically allow officer discretion, but the physical arrest of a domestic violence suspect is required by state law. Refer to [DM 06.11 - Preliminary and Criminal Investigations](#) for additional information.

When the investigating sworn member determines that there is probable cause to believe that a crime involving domestic violence has been committed, and that the suspect committed the crime, the sworn member will arrest the suspect and charge the suspect with appropriate criminal charges. The arrested person will be taken to the Aurora Detention Center for booking. The arrested person will be held without bond until their first court appearance, where a judge will decide the conditions for release, including the amount of the bond. If the investigating sworn member receives complaints of domestic violence from two or more opposing persons, the sworn member will evaluate each complaint separately to determine if probable cause for the commission of a crime exists.

Sworn members shall document any information that supports the existence of an intimate relationship, such as admission, cohabitation, or sharing a bedroom.

The Domestic Violence Case Investigation Form (APD 308) will be completed for all cases where probable cause exists for DV charges. Regardless of the victim's willingness to complete the form or answer the listed questions in full, the sworn member shall complete their designated portion of the Domestic Violence Case Investigation Form (APD 308) and submit the paperwork to the APD Records Unit to be scanned and attached to the case file.

Downgrading a call for service for a Domestic Violence Incident requires the approval of a supervisor, with the approving supervisor's name documented in the CAD notes.

6.09.06 AURORA MUNICIPAL COURT

Effective July 1, 2025, Aurora Municipal Court will no longer accept misdemeanor domestic violence cases. Members shall not charge any domestic violence-related offenses in Municipal Court. All qualifying misdemeanor domestic violence cases will be filed in the appropriate County Court jurisdiction (Adams, Arapahoe, or Douglas) according to the location of the incident and the procedures outlined in this directive.

Violations of municipal DV protection orders:

Any violation of a protection order originating from a municipal domestic violence case shall be classified as a new domestic violence criminal offense. Officers must verify the specific municipal case from which the protection order was issued when determining whether the order is domestic-violence-related. If probable cause exists that a violation has occurred, the arrestee shall be charged in county court. If the suspect is unable to be located, the case shall be forwarded to DVIU for follow-up.

C.R.S. Section 18-6-803.5 will be charged when there is a violation of "any protective order," and subsection (C) specifically includes municipal ordinance violations.

6.9.07 COUNTY COURT CASES

Members investigating a domestic violence incident in Arapahoe, Adams, or Douglas Counties will charge all applicable criminal charges in the respective County Court on a next-day arraignment schedule.

Sworn members will complete all currently required paperwork associated with a domestic violence report, including:

1. Members will charge the suspect by issuing an Applicable County Court summons.
2. Members will complete a warrantless arrest affidavit for the Appropriate County.

6.9.08 JUVENILE DV CASES

Complete Juvenile DV arrests in the following manner:

1. Process the juvenile through the juvenile-specific area of the Aurora Detention Center.
2. Complete an Arrest Affidavit.
3. Do not issue a summons!
4. Members will conduct a phone screening process with the following juvenile detention facilities:

Arapahoe County & Douglas County: Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC):

1. Once the phone screening process is completed, the member will transport and release custody of the juvenile to the JAC.

Adams County: Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC)

1. Once the phone screening process is completed, the officer will be informed by the CYDC representative if the juvenile will be detained or released to a parent or guardian with a Promise to Appear.
 - a. If the juvenile will be detained, the officer will transport and release custody of the juvenile to the CYDC.
 - b. If the CYDC determines that the juvenile will not be detained, the CYDC representative will email the officer a Promise to Appear form, along with the corresponding court information, conditions of release, and any related instructions.
 - c. The officer will print the Promise to Appear form and have the juvenile and their parent or guardian sign the form. The officer will give a copy of the form to the juvenile and their parent or guardian, then scan and email the signed form back to the CYDC using the email provided by the CYDC representative.
 - d. A copy of the signed form will be submitted to the APD Records Unit to be scanned and attached to the case file.

6.9.09 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE FOLLOW-UP

Misdemeanor Cases:

If the reporting sworn member is unable to make an arrest or complete follow-up before the end of their work week, they will document all attempted contacts, and the case will be forwarded to the Domestic Violence Investigation Unit (DVIU) to ensure timely review.

This does not absolve the member from conducting proper follow-up, and the report may be routed back to the member after review by DVIU.

Domestic violence misdemeanor cases will only be accepted by the DVIU for a warrant application under the following circumstances:

1. Probable cause has been established for specific misdemeanor charges.
2. All investigative steps have been completed, and all evidence has been collected.
3. Several good-faith attempts have been made to locate and arrest the suspect, and each attempt will be documented in follow-up supplemental reports.

Felonies involving Domestic Violence:

All felony level criminal cases will automatically be routed to DVIU for follow-up and case filing.

6.9.10 VICTIM SERVICES RESPONSE AND INFORMATION

1. The Victim Services Unit (VSU) is available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week through Aurora911 for immediate response, consultation, and notifications consistent with the Colorado Victim Rights Act.
2. When advocate contact is requested during a call for service, or when safety concerns are identified, the member shall contact Aurora911 to request Victim Services.
3. For all felony domestic violence cases, members shall ensure mandatory notification to Victim Services by contacting Aurora911 or by email at APDVSU@auroragov.org.
4. In all domestic violence cases, members shall provide the Victim Services QR code card to the victim. When an arrest is made, the member shall complete the reverse side of the card. The QR code provides access to the Victims Services website that offers information on county court procedures, shelters, and other resources.
5. For follow-up notifications, members shall contact Victim Services by email at APDVSU@auroragov.org.