


AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

DIRECTIVES MANUAL

08.26	Title: MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT INVESTIGATIONS	
	Approved By: Nick Metz, Chief of Police	
	Effective: 09/01/1998	Revised: 10/27/2016
	Associated Policy: DM 08.10; 11.02	
	References:	
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8.26 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT INVESTIGATIONS

This directive provides guidance for the handling of individuals arrested for motor vehicle theft.

8.26.1 Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) Metro Auto Theft Team (CMATT)

The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) Metro Auto Theft Team is a multi-jurisdictional auto theft task force funded by a grant through the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority. The task force includes members of the Aurora Police Department and is made up of members from various agencies.

The CATPA Metro Auto Theft Team (CMATT) is organized in four sectors within the metro area and under the command of a Lakewood P.D. commander. The East Team is organized within the Investigative Support Section and supervised by an Aurora Police sergeant.

The goal of the CMATT is to target those repeat and serious offenders related to motor vehicle thefts. The primary target investigations will focus on, but not be limited to, chop-shops, serious repeat offenders, pattern crimes, insurance frauds and forgeries (VIN switches, ghost vehicles, etc.) and any other crime where the primary offense relates to motor vehicle theft. CMATT will not usually accept cases that are relatively minor in nature or committed by first time offenders with little or no criminal history related to motor vehicle theft. For example, joyriding, misdemeanor and non-pattern motor vehicles thefts, etc., should continue to be handled by district detectives.

8.26.2 Motor Vehicle Theft Case Management

Motor vehicle theft cases handled by Patrol or Desk Technicians will automatically be forwarded to the district detective case management queue for the district in which the crime occurred and a Notify in Versadex will be sent to CMATT. The CMATT sergeant in conjunction with the district detective sergeant will coordinate any pattern crime and determine which cases will be handled by CMATT as outlined in 8.26.1.

8.26.3 Adult Arrests

The on-call CMATT member and/or district investigator does not need to be notified by phone for every in-custody motor vehicle theft arrest. On-call CMATT members can be contacted if assistance is needed in determining the appropriate court for charging. They should also be contacted for assistance in complex cases such as VIN switching or chop shops. A patrol officer may also contact CMATT in cases where a suspect is willing to provide information related to other auto theft cases or stolen vehicles. If a CMATT investigator is needed, they may be called at the on-call number (303-739-1995).

For municipal cases, the officer will set a next day arraignment in Division 3 at 10:00 a.m. and affix a red tag (denoting "next day arraignment") to the summons and submit the summons to the Patrol Lieutenant or Sergeant for approval. Reports associated with the arrest will be submitted through the MRE. Patrol Lieutenants or Sergeants approving red tagged reports will adhere to the guidelines prescribed in this Directive Manual (8.10).

For cases charged at the state level, members will adhere to normal detention procedures and hold the detainee for bond, unless advised otherwise by a District or CMATT Investigator.

8.26.4 Juvenile Detentions

When an arrest/detention is made by a patrol officer related to a motor vehicle theft, the district investigator will help make a determination regarding the appropriate court for charging

Juvenile suspects will be handled in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in this Directive Manual (11.2).

Juveniles detained for motor vehicle theft will be transported to the Aurora Detention Section for processing. The arresting officer will issue the juvenile a municipal summons and complaint with a two-week arraignment in Division 4 at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, unless directed otherwise by the district investigator, or the juvenile is flagged as a SHODI. SHODI juveniles will not be issued a municipal summons. Detainees flagged as "no more summons" juveniles will be handled on a case by case basis as determined by the district investigator or supervisor.

Juvenile detainees may be released to a parent, guardian, legal custodian or another agency as appropriate.

8.26.5 Case Filings

The district investigator notified of the arrest/detention of an individual for motor vehicle theft will ensure the district sergeant is notified of the case report number associated with the incident. The district sergeant will ensure the case is appropriately assigned within the Records Management System.

The assigned district investigator will complete the appropriate case filing (Municipal or District Court) and provide the required documents to the City / District Attorney's Office prior to the suspect's arraignment.