



Policy 1206

Subject

INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING CHILDREN WHO HAVE WITNESSED A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- RELATED PARENTAL HOMICIDE

Date Published

1 July 2016

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By Order of the Police Commissioner

PURPOSE

This policy describes the operational protocol to be followed by members of the Baltimore Police Department when it is determined that a child has witnessed a domestic violence-related parental homicide.

GENERAL

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD), the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office (SAO), the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the House of Ruth Maryland (HRM) have partnered to ensure the rapid assessment of the needs of, and delivery of services to, children who have witnessed a domestic violence-related parental homicide. For the purposes of this policy, a "child" is any person up to and including 18-years-old.

REQUIRED ACTION

Member

Notify your supervisor whenever it is determined that a child has witnessed a domestic violence-related parental homicide.

Supervisor

Notify the Sergeant/OIC, Homicide Section, whenever it has been determined that a child has witnessed a domestic violence-related parental homicide.

Sergeant/OIC, Homicide Section

1. Once it has been determined that a child has witnessed a domestic violence-related parental homicide, contact the designated Victim Advocate at the SAO's Family Violence Unit as soon as possible, via the Communications Unit.

NOTE: Notification must occur within 24 hours of the homicide.

- 1.1. Assist the Victim Advocate in arranging a meeting with the child to conduct a forensic interview.

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2. For follow-up interviews between the Victim Advocate and the child:
 - 2.1. If the child is in foster care, coordinate with DSS and make arrangements for the child and his/her caretaker to meet with the Victim Advocate.
 - 2.2. If the child is not in foster care, coordinate directly with the child's caretaker to arrange transportation to meet with the Victim Advocate.

Shift Commander/SIC, Homicide Section

Ensure that the designated Victim Advocate at the SAO's Family Violence Unit is notified as required.

RESCISSION

Remove and destroy/recycle Policy 1206, *Investigations Involving Children Who Have Witnessed a Domestic-Related Parental Homicide*, dated 2 March 2015.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Commanders are responsible for informing their subordinates of this policy and ensuring compliance.