

TRANSPORTS TO HOPE PLACE

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish procedures regarding the transport/escort of domestic violence victims to Hope Place.
3. **SCOPE:** This directive is applicable to all personnel.
4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All personnel are responsible for complying with this directive.
5. **DEFINITIONS:** To clarify the difference between Emergency Transport and Non-Emergency Escort.

1. **EMERGENCY TRANSPORT:** In the event officers respond to a domestic violence situation where the victim has been harmed **or**; the victim is fearful that potential harm is imminent or could be imminent within a reasonable amount of time **and**;

The victim has accepted the offer of shelter by officers, Domestic Violence First Responder, or has otherwise requested shelter.

2. **NON-EMERGENCY ESCORT:** The victim of a past domestic violence incident that has gained pre-arranged admission into shelter through Crisis Services of North Alabama/Hope Place. The victim has been directed to a pre-determined location for transport to shelter. Because of manpower requirements, liability concerns, and lack of adequate space in patrol vehicles, the Huntsville Police Department is not responsible for providing transport, but may provide security during transit to shelter by Crisis Services/Hope Place-provided vehicles and personnel.

6. **OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. **EMERGENCY TRANSPORT:** While at the scene of domestic violence event or after being sent to a medical facility or other location where a domestic violence victim is present and shelter is requested, the officer will:

A. Cause notification of Helpline through Communications. A screening process will be conducted and the victim will be promptly contacted by a Domestic Violence Advocate, who will make arrangements for shelter admittance. (If a Domestic Violence Responder is present or available, he/she can conduct the screening process). Once admittance is granted, the victim can be transported by officer(s).

2. **NON-EMERGENCY ESCORT:** If the Huntsville Police Department is contacted by Crisis Services of North Alabama/Hope Place, requesting a non-emergency escort to shelter, the following procedure will apply:

A. The event shall be prioritized according to existing 911 Center/Huntsville Police Department Communications Division guidelines.

B. Officers will respond to the designated location and stand by with the victim(s) for a reasonable amount of time until transportation arrives. The Officer shall go back in service if needed to respond to a priority event, and the escort event shall be reassigned as practical.

C. Once shelter transportation arrives, the officer may escort the victim to the shelter, and ensuring the victim is admitted safely.

7. **TRANSPORT REQUEST BY OTHER POLICE AGENCIES:** Requests from another police agency for victim transports from their jurisdiction boundary to shelter within our jurisdiction, Shift Supervisor discretion shall apply.