

<b>MESA POLICE</b>  Department Policy Manual	<b>Kidnapping Investigations - Adult</b>	<b>DPM 3.1.65</b> Effective 02/13/2012 Revised 02/19/2016 Reviewed 02/27/2018
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## 1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with protocols for investigating kidnapping incidents. It is the policy of the MPD to investigate all reports of kidnapping. The safety and welfare of the victims shall be the primary goal.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

**Kidnapping:** *A person commits kidnapping by knowingly restraining another person with the intent to hold the victim for ransom, as a shield or hostage; or hold the victim for involuntary servitude; or inflict death, physical injury or a sexual offense on the victim, or to otherwise aid in the commission of a felony. ([ARS 13-1304](#))*

**Extortionate Means:** *The use, or an expressed or implicit threat of use, of violence or other criminal means to cause harm to the person or the reputation or property of any person. ([ARS 13-2301.A.6](#))*

## 3. GUIDELINES

### 3.1 Investigative Units

- A. The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) will:
  1. Primarily investigate active kidnappings when the victim is an adult, 18 years of age or older, who is still in the custody of the suspect/s or whose location is otherwise unknown.
  2. Be responsible for the disposition of such cases.
  3. Offer resources and assistance to other investigative units with any kidnapping investigation where the victim has been recovered, but suspects are still outstanding.
- B. When a kidnapping involves the following types of victims, it will be investigated by MCU in conjunction with the Mesa Family Advocacy Center (MFAC):
  1. The victim is a juvenile, under the age of 18.
  2. The victim is an adult, 18 years of age or older, **with** indication of being sexually motivated and/or domestic violence related.
  3. The case disposition will be determined by the MFAC.
- C. Criminal Investigations Units (CIU) will be utilized to assist with various aspects of kidnapping investigations.

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## 3.2 Specialty Units

- A. Due to exigent circumstances involving kidnappings, various investigative units and techniques may be utilized, to include the Special Operations Division.
- B. Outside police agencies may be utilized, when necessary, to assist with various aspects of kidnapping investigations including, but not limited to:
  1. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
  2. U.S. Marshal's Office.
  3. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
  4. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

## 4. INITIAL PATROL RESPONSE

### 4.1 Communications

- A. Communications will dispatch officers to the scene of a reported kidnapping and/or extortion.
- B. Communications will notify the appropriate on-duty Patrol Supervisors, including the appropriate Patrol Lieutenant, who will then notify the affected division commander as outlined in [DPM 2.6.25 Incident Command Systems Protocols](#).

### 4.2 Patrol Officers

- A. First responding officers will respond to the location where the event is being reported and determine:
  1. The type of kidnapping.
  2. The location where the kidnapping took place.
- B. First responding officers will not respond to the location where the event is being reported if any of the following concerns are present:
  1. Counter-surveillance is possibly being conducted upon the dispatched location by suspects.
  2. Statements have been made that the victim will be harmed and/or killed if police are notified.
  3. Any other situation exists where a marked police response would negatively impact the resulting investigation.
- C. In the event the first responding officers cannot respond directly to the scene, said officers should make contact with the RP via telephone and make

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arrangements to meet with them at a discreet location. If no callback number is provided by the RP, officers should make efforts to utilize plainclothes detectives (e.g.; SCU, CIU, etc.) for initial contact before responding directly to the dispatched location.

- D. Upon confirming a kidnapping has occurred, responding officers will:
1. Conduct an initial investigation.
  2. Obtain photos of the victim, if possible.
  3. Stay with the RP until relieved by detectives.
  4. Arrange to have the RP transported to MPD headquarters, if necessary.
    - a. Secure the cell phone (and charger if available) receiving the ransom demands if it is necessary to transport the RP.
    - b. The initial investigation may be conducted from the RP's residence, if the ransom demands are from a landline phone.
    - c. Do not contact suspect/s unless it is immediately necessary to do so.
  5. Prepare for a brief for responding detectives.

### 4.3 Patrol Supervisors

- A. It is imperative the responding Patrol Supervisor verify whether the kidnapping incident occurred within the MPD jurisdiction before contacting/activating other resources.
- B. If it is determined the incident occurred within the City of Mesa:
  1. The responding Patrol Supervisor will initiate the Incident Command System as appropriate and outlined in [DPM 2.6.5 Barricade Response](#).
  2. The responding Patrol Supervisor will notify the Major Offender Section Lieutenant or designee, so they can determine the appropriate personnel and action required.
  3. A MFAC Supervisor will also be notified, if applicable as described above.
  4. If possible, determine:
    - a. Where the victim is being held;
    - b. What jurisdiction the ransom demands are coming from;
    - c. Where the victim was taken from;
    - d. Where the victim was heading;
    - e. Why the victim was kidnapped; and
    - f. Where the victim was last seen.
  5. Inform the RP it may be necessary for them to come to the police station and remain for an extended period of time to best assist with the investigation.
  6. Ensure the RP's statement is recorded.
  7. Advise the RP if they choose to handle the situation on their own (e.g.; pay the ransom demand without notifying the police), the MPD will no longer be able to assist.

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- C. If it is determined the kidnapping **did not** occur in Mesa:
1. The Patrol Supervisor Major Offender Section Lieutenant or designee will determine appropriate action required.

## 5. INVESTIGATION PROTOCOLS

### 5.1 General Guidelines

- A. The first 48 hours of a kidnapping investigation are critical.
- B. It is imperative that division within the MPD and outside police agencies work together to maintain the integrity of the investigation.

### 5.2 Major Offender Section Lieutenant or Designee Responsibilities

- A. Upon notification, obtain briefing of kidnapping incidents from patrol.
- B. Assign the appropriate personnel for investigation.
- C. Maintain control of information disseminated to the public through the Media Relations Office.
- D. Determine the necessary personnel/resources needed to conduct the investigation, including the need for assistance from other police agencies.
- E. Notify and keep affected Department supervisors apprised of the developments of the case.
- F. Serve as a liaison with other Department members.

### 5.3 Investigative Supervisor Responsibilities

- A. The MCU Supervisor or designee will make the following detective assignments which include, but are not limited to:
  1. A detective assigned as the case agent who directs the case and receives all information gathered by assigned detectives.
  2. A detective assigned as the co-case agent who assists the case agent and takes over when relief is necessary.
  3. A detective assigned to document and who will maintain a running timeline of all information, assignments, and/or events as the case progresses.
- B. If a kidnapping incident results in a joint investigation between MCU and MFAC, assignments will occur as follows:
  1. A MFAC detective shall be assigned as the case agent along with the assignment of a MCU detective as co-case agent.
  2. The investigation will be under the direction and supervision of the MFAC Sergeant or designee.

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## 5.4 Detective Responsibilities

- A. Upon receiving a briefing of the initial investigation, the assigned detective will:
  1. Have the victim entered into NCIC/ACIC as an endangered missing person.
  2. Refer to [DPM 3.1.60 Missing Persons Investigations](#).
- B. The assigned case agent or designee will conduct briefing sessions and make notifications as practical to keep everyone apprised of developments.
- C. It is important for the case agent or designee to periodically review the case to ensure all leads are exhausted.
- D. During the first 48 hours, updates should be continuously documented on a written timeline at the end of every shift to include any outstanding assignments.
- E. It is necessary for all assigned detectives to brief the assigned case agent/s regularly and complete all supplemental reports in a timely manner.
- F. It is important that during every shift change:
  1. Detectives and supervisors brief the oncoming members of the status of the case and their assignments.
  2. Ensure all information or leads on hold status are followed up on.

## 5.5 Interagency Assistance

- A. Agencies supplying personnel/resources will incur the full cost for those personnel/resources.
- B. Outside agencies providing a large group of personnel to assist with a specific task (e.g.; authoring and serving a search warrant) of a kidnapping investigation should provide supervision. Ultimately, the responsible agency is in charge of all personnel at the scene, including those from other agencies.
- C. Any requests for other agency assistance must be approved by a supervisor with the rank of lieutenant or above.

## 6. FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION GUIDELINES

The case agent or designee will be responsible for updating their supervisor while conducting investigative follow-up until all leads have been exhausted, the victim is located, and/or the suspects are apprehended.

## REFERENCES

- [DPM 2.6.5 Barricade/Hostage Response](#)

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- [DPM 2.6.25 Incident Command Systems Protocols](#)
- [DPM 3.1.60 Missing Person Investigations](#)
- [INV 2.10 Major Incident Detective Response](#)