

DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL ORDER

OLIVETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

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FIELD INTERVIEW REPORTS

I. POLICY

A. It will be the policy of the Olivette Police Department to conduct field interviews as part of a comprehensive strategy of crime control. The objectives are to identify and to develop information about suspicious persons, develop suspects in conjunction with directed patrol in response to targeted patterns of crime and to prevent crime.

B. Field interviews will be conducted by the officers of this Department in a manner consistent with our goal of keeping the community as free from crime and disorder as possible. That goal will be accomplished in a manner consistent with respecting the civil rights of all citizens with whom we come into contact.

C. Officers will respect and protect the constitutional rights of all individuals during law enforcement contacts and/or enforcement actions. The Department will not tolerate enforcement actions taken by officers that are based on race, national origin, creed, color, disability, age, religion or any other class protected by law unless one or more of those traits is relevant to the enforcement action (i.e. suspect description, clothing description, etc.).

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Field interviews are divided into two categories:

1. Field Contacts – a general conversation with a purpose between a citizen and a law enforcement officer where the citizen is free to leave.

2. Field Interrogation – questioning of a citizen by a law enforcement officer with respect to a crime. The status of field interrogation is further defined by the focus of suspicion being on the subject of the interview as the perpetrator of criminal activity.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Officers of the Olivette Police Department are authorized and encouraged to conduct field interviews with persons under two conditions

1. Persons whom the officer believes may have information pertaining to a crime, pattern of crimes, and/or criminal suspects. This interview will generally take the form of a field contact.
2. When the officer has a reasonable suspicion that criminal activity is afoot, and the person to be interviewed may be the perpetrator of that activity. This interview may take the form of either a field contact or field interrogation.

B. Constitutional Safeguards

1. When appropriate, officers will provide Miranda warnings for the person/s being interviewed. The warnings will be given under the following conditions:
 - a) The focus of suspicion is on that person for a criminal offense or ordinance violation, and;
 - b) A reasonable person would believe that he/she is no longer free to leave (custody), and;
 - c) The persons being interviewed will be asked questions designed to elicit a self-incriminating response.
2. Miranda warnings should be given in a manner to insure the subject understands the content. The subject must affirmatively waive his/her rights prior to any further questioning.
3. Persons being detained should be released as soon as the reason for the detention no longer exists. This section does not preclude an arrest in the event the officer develops probable cause to do so.

C. Demeanor

Officers conducting field interviews will maintain a courteous manner and professional image. Officers will explain the reason for the contact, if appropriate, or if the person asks for a justification. Officers may refrain from an explanation if divulging it would be inconsistent with the safety of the officer/s or others, or with security of an on-going operation.

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D. Documentation

1. Officers should document all information relevant to criminal activity and identification of criminal suspects in the CAD notes of PremierOne Reporting service.
2. Officers will document all field contacts relative to enforcement actions (i.e. pedestrian check, suspicious person, etc.) on the Department Field Contacts log.

This General Order supersedes all prior directives and orders inconsistent therewith.

BY ORDER OF:

Signature on File

Beth M. Andreski

Chief of Police

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