

## BEFORE LEAVING THE PREMISES...

- ✓ Provide information of local resources for victims of domestic violence.
- ✓ Ensure that the victim and children have a safe place to go.
- ✓ Obtain alternate contact information for the victim.



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*The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice. This project was supported by Award No. 2006-JG-BOV-V7239, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.*

CJS 0009 8/11

# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW ENFORCEMENT TIP CARD**

◆ **ARRIVING AT THE SCENE...**

◆ **CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION...**

◆ **MAKING AN ARREST...**

◆ **BEFORE LEAVING THE PREMISES...**

## ARRIVING AT THE SCENE...

- ✓ Establish control of the situation.
- ✓ Separate the parties and identify all occupants on the premises.
- ✓ Assess the language needs of the parties and the need for an interpreter.
  - Do not allow one of the parties to interpret for the other or use children to interpret.
  - Obtain an interpreter, if needed.
- ✓ Do not reveal the identity of a 9-1-1 caller.

## CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION...

- ✓ Seize all weapons.
- ✓ Interview parties separately, without children present, and document their statements.
- ✓ Interview any children at the scene separately and without adults present, and document their statements.
- ✓ Look for signs of strangulation, and seek immediate medical attention if they are present. Some signs are:
  - Difficulty breathing.
  - Short, choppy sentences.
  - Raspy voice.
  - Redness or slight bruising.
  - Tiny red spots around the eyes, neck, or behind the ears.
  - Neck pain; sore throat.
  - Difficulty swallowing.
  - Light-headed; head rush; fainting.
  - Nausea or vomiting; coughing up blood.
  - Scratches, abrasions, scrapes, or ligature marks around the neck.
- ✓ Ensure the appropriate medical attention is provided.
- ✓ Collect all evidence, such as torn or bloodstained clothing, or damage to property or furniture.
- ✓ Take photographs of the scene, any injuries or damages, and the victim's face, for identification purposes.
- ✓ Interview other witnesses, such as neighbors and co-workers, and obtain written statements when possible.
- ✓ Identify the existence of protection orders.
- ✓ Determine the primary physical aggressor.
  - Check for a history of domestic violence or any violent acts.
  - Observe signs of self-defense.
  - Assess each person's fear of physical harm.
  - Compare the severity of the injuries suffered by each party.
  - Consider any other relevant circumstances.

## MAKING AN ARREST...

- ✓ Complete the police report.
  - Document all evidence collected and other pertinent observations.
  - Document the existence and severity of injuries or any other indication of physical harm.
  - Document if the perpetrator had a weapon at the time of the offense.
  - Document the history of the use of weapons or access to weapons.
  - State if you believe the perpetrator poses a credible threat of serious physical harm to the victim or any other family or household member.
  - Document any history of violence, or violation of a protection order.
  - Document any history of substance abuse, mental health issues, or threat of homicide or suicide.
  - Document any history of stalking, surveillance, or other obsessive behavior.
  - Document if the 9-1-1 call was collected as evidence.
  - Document if violence took place in the sight or within hearing range of children.
- ✓ If no arrest is made due to lack of probable cause, the report must state the reasons for not arresting anyone.

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