Domestic Violence Policy Checklist

✔ Introduction

- ❑ Police as the front line in abuse prevention.
- ❑ Impact on police from a statistical standpoint.
- ❑ Historical background.

✔ Definitions

- ❑ Abuse
- ❑ Family or household member
- ❑ Premises
- ❑ Stalking

✔ Dispatcher's Response

- ❑ Determine location of emergency.
- ❑ Ascertain what has or is occurring.
- ❑ Find out if anyone is in need of medical assistance.
- ❑ Establish the whereabouts of the batterer.
- ❑ Are there weapons involved and if so, what type?
- ❑ Ascertain name of the batterer. If unknown, get a physical and clothing description.
- ❑ Inquire about the use of alcohol and/or drugs.
- ❑ Ascertain the name of the victim and her safety.
- ❑ Find out if there are witnesses.
- ❑ Inquire as to the presence of children and their safety.
- ❑ Determine if there is an active protection order.
- ❑ Check for prior history.
- ❑ Issue of pressing or dropping charges *should not* be addressed.
- ❑ Illicit information from computer for responding officer such as warrants, record, etc.

✔ Who'll be Encountered

- ❑ Victim
- ❑ Batterer
- ❑ Witnesses

✔ Patrol Officers' Response

- ❑ Enroute.
- ❑ Approach.
- ❑ Inside.
- ❑ Medical aid.
- ❑ Firearms.
- ❑ Arrest – shall if a protection order is in effect and probable cause that it was violated, zero tolerance.
- ❑ *Arrest – shall be the preferred response* based on probable cause a crime was committed.
- ❑ Dual arrests *strongly discouraged.*
- ❑ Victim rights.
- ❑ Emergency judicial response.
- ❑ Bail – beepers, cell phones, etc.
- ❑ Safe place – monitors and shelters.

✔ Investigation

✔ Ascertain Facts

- ❑ Separate and interview individually, including the children.
- ❑ Avoid undue interruption and interference.
- ❑ Keep all parties in view.

✔ Interview

- ❑ Professional demeanor.
- ❑ Objective and concerned attitude.
- ❑ What happened?
- ❑ Who assaulted you?
- ❑ When were you assaulted?
- ❑ Where did the incident occur?
- ❑ How were you assaulted?
- ❑ Injuries and/or pain.
- ❑ Weapons involved.
- ❑ What prompted the incident?
- ❑ Anyone else present?
- ❑ Relationship information: length, type, frequency, and end date.
- ❑ Children.
- ❑ Elderly or disabled persons.
- ❑ Phone numbers.
- ❑ Where the victim can be reached.
- ❑ Messages safely related, close friend or relative.

- ❑ Firearms.
- ❑ Prior history of assaultiveness.
- ❑ Protection orders.
- ❑ Custody and/or visitation orders.
- ❑ Provide safety information and numbers.
- ❑ Victim encouragement.
- ❑ Avoid in-depth questioning unless necessary.

✔ Interrogation

- ❑ Custodial vs. noncustodial.
- ❑ Miranda.
- ❑ Handcuffs.
- ❑ Location.
- ❑ Warrant vs. warrantless.
- ❑ Trickery and deceit.
- ❑ Baiting techniques.

✔ Children

- ❑ Neglect – malnutrition, addiction.
- ❑ Physical abuse.
- ❑ Sexual abuse.
- ❑ Emotional abuse.

✔ Property

- ❑ Damaged – personal, joint or other.
- ❑ Stolen.
- ❑ Utilities/telephone.
- ❑ Mail.

✔ Firearms

- ❑ Seize if evidence.
- ❑ Request temporary custody.
- ❑ Search and take custody when requested.
- ❑ Search and take custody for safety.
- ❑ Assure lawful custody before returning.
- ❑ Judge's order.
- ❑ Chief rescinds the license or permit.

✓ Evidence

- ❑ Excited utterances.
- ❑ Emotional demeanor of both the victim and batterer.
- ❑ Physical appearance.
- ❑ Photographs of injuries, scene and evidence.
- ❑ Physical – objects, impressions, body fluids and excretions, etc.
- ❑ Physical – cannot lie, not effected by emotion, unimpeachable, etc.
- ❑ Physical – cannot be eluded by faulty memory, prejudice, bias, poor eyesight, etc.
- ❑ Medical reports.
- ❑ Stolen property.
- ❑ Entry.
- ❑ Canvass the neighborhood.

✓ Violation and Protection Order Evidence

- ❑ Letters and cards.
- ❑ Flowers and balloons.
- ❑ Writings on wall or mirrors.
- ❑ Videos and audiotapes.
- ❑ Family photographs.
- ❑ Answering machine.
- ❑ Toll analysis.
- ❑ Phone Smart.
- ❑ 911 tapes.

✓ Reports

- ❑ Maintain objectivity.
- ❑ Document and describe injuries.
- ❑ Photographs taken of injuries and scene.
- ❑ Note children and elderly or disabled persons.
- ❑ Excited utterances verbatim.
- ❑ Physical appearance and description of the victim.
- ❑ Physical appearance and description of the batterer.
- ❑ Emotion demeanor of the victim and batterer.
- ❑ Crime scene.
- ❑ Victim statement.
- ❑ Batterer statement.
- ❑ Witness statement.
- ❑ Prior history.
- ❑ Evidence collected.

✔ Follow-Up

- ❑ Safety check.
- ❑ Provide transportation to court, shelter or safe place.
- ❑ Referral to victim/witness or community victim advocates groups.
- ❑ Photographs.
- ❑ Case status.
- ❑ Be there for her.

✔ Service of Orders

- ❑ Patrol officer responsible for sector.
- ❑ In hand.
- ❑ Don't accompany the defendant without a Judge's order.

✔ Domestic Violence Units and Officers

- ❑ Investigation and responsibility should remain with patrol.
- ❑ Unit coordinates and manages the Department's response to domestic violence.
- ❑ Maintain statistical database of incidents, arrests, and issued protection orders.
- ❑ Training.
- ❑ Liaison with other agencies.
- ❑ Follow up.

✔ Cops as Batterers

- ❑ Ensure victim safety.
- ❑ Supervisor investigates.
- ❑ Commanding officer responsibilities.
- ❑ Role of internal affairs.
- ❑ Securing Department and personal weapons.

✔ Military Personnel who Batter

✔ Effects on Children

- ❑ Silent victims.
- ❑ Emotional problems.
- ❑ Developmental problems.
- ❑ Intervention.
- ❑ Self-medication.
- ❑ Perpetuators of the violence.
- ❑ Society's responsibility.

✔ **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

- ❑ Commonality.
- ❑ *Not the cause.*
- ❑ Self-medication.

✔ **Dangerousness and Lethality**

- ❑ Homicide.
- ❑ Normal personality considerations.
- ❑ Mental health
- ❑ Hare Psychopathy.
- ❑ Continuum of risk.

✔ **Stalking**

- ❑ Willfulness and malicious.
- ❑ Followed or harassed.
- ❑ Repeatedly.
- ❑ Threat with intent to put victim in imminent fear of death or serious injury.

✔ **Training**

- ❑ Victim's story.
- ❑ Use of non-law enforcement trainers.
- ❑ History.
- ❑ Domestic violence laws.
- ❑ Policy and protocol.
- ❑ Dynamics and myth destroying.
- ❑ Investigative techniques.
- ❑ Community resources, shelter visit.
- ❑ Length of training.

✔ **Conclusion**

- ❑ Goals of law enforcement.
- ❑ Stop the violence.
- ❑ Victim safety.
- ❑ Batterer accountability.
- ❑ Reasons why.