

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

3060 Willamette Drive NE Lacey, WA 98516 ~ Phone: (360) 486-2380 ~ Fax: (360) 486-2381 ~ Website: www.waspc.org

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington



Model Policy Domestic Violence Investigations in a Medical Facility

Adopted by the Membership May 22, 2014

When law enforcement officers respond to medical facilities regarding an injured person, officers should attempt to determine prior to contact with the victim or reporting party whether or not the injury was the result of domestic violence. Officers must take into account that the victim of a domestic violence may be subjected to additional threats and violence due to the intervention of law enforcement authorities.

Officers should contact the medical facility representatives out of view and hearing of the victim and any potential suspects unless there are specific circumstances making that impractical. The officer should attempt to gather as much information regarding the incident from the medical facility representatives with special attention to the future safety of the victim. The officer should work with the medical facility representatives and available community advocates to assist the victim with safety planning.

The officer should make contact with the victim out of view and hearing of any potential suspects. The officer should discuss the victim's future safety as part of the initial interview and refer the victim to advocates who can assist in ongoing safety planning.

The officer should attempt to contact the victim and advise of any plans for contact with the suspect or other actions taken as part of the investigation to include interviews with witnesses and the timing and manner of planned arrest.