
Investigation and Prosecution

600.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines and requirements pertaining to the handling and disposition of criminal investigations.

600.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Irvine Police Department to investigate crimes thoroughly, with due diligence, and to evaluate and prepare criminal cases for appropriate clearance or submission to the District Attorney's office (prosecutor).

600.3 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

600.3.1 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

An officer responsible for an initial investigation should complete no less than the following:

- (a) Make a preliminary determination of whether a crime has been committed by completing, at a minimum:
 - 1. An initial statement from any witnesses or complainants.
 - 2. A cursory examination for evidence.
- (b) If information indicates a crime has occurred, the officer shall:
 - (a) Preserve the scene and any evidence as required to complete the initial and follow-up investigation.
 - (b) Determine if additional investigative resources (e.g., investigators or scene processing) are necessary and request assistance as required.
 - (c) If assistance is warranted, or if the incident is not routine, notify a supervisor or the watch commander.
 - (d) Make reasonable attempts to locate, identify and interview all available victims, complainants, witnesses and suspects.
 - (e) Collect any evidence.
 - (f) Take any appropriate law enforcement action.
 - (g) Complete and submit the appropriate reports and documentation.
- (c) If the preliminary determination is that no crime occurred or the complainant is not desirous of prosecution, determine what other action may be necessary, what other resources may be available, and advise the informant or complainant of this information.

600.3.2 PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

A professional staff member assigned to any preliminary investigation is responsible for all investigative steps, except making any attempt to contact or interview a suspect face-to-face or

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take any enforcement action. Should an initial investigation indicate that those steps are required, the assistance of an officer shall be requested.

During traffic investigations, professional staff members may contact certain persons during the course of their duties. Examples may include, but are not limited to, parking violations or property damage hit-and-run investigations.

600.4 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION REQUIREMENTS

Suspects who are in custody and subjected to an interrogation shall be given the *Miranda* advisement, unless an exception applies. Interview or interrogation of a juvenile shall be in accordance with the Temporary Custody of Juveniles Policy.

600.4.1 AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS

Custodial interviews shall be recorded as per the Digital Audio Recording policy.

600.4.2 MANDATORY RECORDING OF ADULTS OR MINORS

Any custodial interrogation of an adult or minor who is suspected of having committed any murder shall be recorded in its entirety. The recording should be video taped with audio, if reasonably feasible (Penal Code § 859.5).

This recording is not mandatory when (Penal Code § 859.5):

- (a) Recording is not feasible because of exigent circumstances that are later documented in a report.
- (b) The person interrogated states he or she will speak to law enforcement only if the interrogation is not recorded. If feasible, the refusal shall be electronically recorded.
- (c) The custodial interrogation occurred in another state by law enforcement officers of that state, unless the interrogation was conducted with the intent to avoid the requirements of Penal Code § 859.5.
- (d) The interrogation occurs when no member conducting the interrogation has a reason to believe that the individual may have committed murder. Continued custodial interrogation concerning that offense shall be electronically recorded if the interrogating member develops a reason to believe the individual committed murder.
- (e) The interrogation would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or would jeopardize the safety of an officer, the individual being interrogated or another individual. Such circumstances shall be documented in a report.
- (f) A recording device fails despite reasonable maintenance and the timely repair or replacement is not feasible.
- (g) The questions are part of a routine processing or booking, and are not an interrogation.
- (h) The suspect is in custody for murder and the interrogation is unrelated to a murder. However, if any information concerning a murder is mentioned during the interrogation, the remainder of the interrogation shall be recorded.

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The Department shall maintain an original or an exact copy of the recording until a conviction relating to the interrogation is final and all appeals are exhausted or prosecution is barred by law (Penal Code § 859.5).

600.5 DISCONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATIONS

An investigation may be discontinued if one of the following applies:

- (a) All reasonable investigative efforts have been exhausted, no reasonable belief that the person who committed the crime can be identified, and the incident has been documented appropriately.
- (b) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor but no charges have been filed. Further investigation is not reasonable nor has the prosecutor requested further investigation.
- (c) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor, charges have been filed, and further investigation is not reasonable, warranted or requested, and there is no need to take the suspect into custody.
- (d) Suspects have been arrested, there are no other suspects, and further investigation is either not warranted or requested.
- (e) Investigation has proven that a crime was not committed.

This list is not all-inclusive as there may be other reasons that arise to discontinue an investigation.

600.6 COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE

The collection, preservation, transportation and storage of computers, cell phones and other digital devices may require specialized handling to preserve the value of the related evidence. If it is anticipated that computers or similar equipment will be seized, officers should request that computer forensic examiners assist with seizing computers and related evidence. If a forensic examiner is unavailable, officers should take reasonable steps to prepare for such seizure and use the resources that are available.

600.7 INVESTIGATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SOURCES

Use of social media and any other Internet source to access information for the purpose of criminal investigation shall comply with applicable laws and policies regarding privacy, civil rights and civil liberties. Information gathered via the Internet should only be accessed by members while on-duty and for purposes related to the mission of this department. If a member encounters information relevant to a criminal investigation while off-duty or while using his/her own equipment, the member should note the dates, times and locations of the information and report the discovery to his/her supervisor as soon as practicable. The member, or others who have been assigned to do so, should attempt to replicate the finding when on-duty and using department equipment.

600.7.2 INTERCEPTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Intercepting social media communications in real time may be subject to federal and state wiretap laws. Officers should seek legal counsel before any such interception.

600.8 CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTION TECHNOLOGY

The Investigations Lieutenant is responsible for ensuring the following for cellular communications interception technology operations (Government Code § 53166):

- (a) Security procedures are developed to protect information gathered through the use of the technology.
- (b) A usage and privacy policy is developed that includes:
 - (a) The purposes for which using cellular communications interception technology and collecting information is authorized.
 - (b) Identification by job title or other designation of employees who are authorized to use or access information collected through the use of cellular communications interception technology.
 - (c) Training requirements necessary for those authorized employees.
 - (d) A description of how the Department will monitor the use of its cellular communications interception technology to ensure the accuracy of the information collected and compliance with all applicable laws.
 - (e) Process and time period system audits.
 - (f) Identification of the existence of any memorandum of understanding or other agreement with any other local agency or other party for the shared use of cellular communications interception technology or the sharing of information collected through its use, including the identity of signatory parties.
 - (g) The purpose of, process for and restrictions on the sharing of information gathered through the use of cellular communications interception technology with other local agencies and persons.

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- (h) The length of time information gathered through the use of cellular communications interception technology will be retained, and the process the local agency will utilize to determine if and when to destroy retained information.

Members shall only use approved devices and usage shall be in compliance with department security procedures, the department's usage and privacy procedures and all applicable laws.