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**Police Operating Procedures for Domestic Calls**

**February 1989**

**NCJRS**

**MAY 30 1989**

**ACQUISITIONS**

**Clearinghouse on Family Violence Information**  
**P.O. Box 1182**  
**Washington, DC 20013**  
**(703) 821-2086**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Office of Human Development Services**  
**Administration for Children, Youth and Families**  
**Children's Bureau**  
**National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect**  
**P.O. Box 1182**  
**Washington, DC 20013**

Anticipating Rank and File Police  
Reactions to Arrest Policies  
Regarding Spouse Abuse.

Steinman, M.  
Nebraska Univ., Lincoln.  
Journal Article  
1988  
Criminal Justice Research  
Bulletin.  
4(3):1-5.

This article discusses the mandatory arrest of spouse abusers and examines police response to such policy. Several avenues of research are identified to determine the optimum method of encouraging enforcement of arrest policies. It is anticipated that police will view such policies negatively and will be reluctant to enforce them. It is noted, however, that arrest is a traditional tactic with which police are familiar and that police may be more comfortable dealing with family disturbance calls if they have customary tactics to use. 59 references.

Descriptors:  
police attitudes; family disturbance calls; mandatory arrests; law enforcement; police operating procedures

Appendix: A Strategy for Teaching  
Domestic Violence Intervention  
to the Police: Issues and  
Experiences.

Roberts, A. R.  
Springer Publishing Co., New York,  
NY.  
Chapter in Book  
pp. 193-203  
Copyright 1984  
Publication Source:  
In: Roberts, A. R. (Editor).  
Battered Women and Their  
Families: Intervention  
Strategies and Treatment  
Programs. (Springer Series on  
Social Work, Vol 1.). New York,  
Springer Publishing Co.,

Distributed By:  
Springer Publishing Company,  
Inc.  
536 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012

This appendix describes a course for police in family violence awareness and intervention skills. Strategies for changing police attitudes are given. A course outline is provided, detailing a 16-week course covering such topics as shelters, child abuse, spouse abuse, crisis intervention, elder abuse, and coordination with criminal justice agencies. 39 references.

Descriptors:  
police attitudes; police training; family disturbance calls; shelters; family violence laws; police operating procedures; police role

Arrest in Domestic Violence Cases:  
A State by State Summary.

National Center on Women and  
Family Law, Inc., New York, NY.  
Technical Report  
14 pp.  
Copyright January 1987  
Distributed By:  
National Center on Women and  
Family Law, Inc.  
799 Broadway  
Room 402  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 674-8200

This report charts family violence laws in 50 States and Washington, DC. For each State and the District, the chart provides the following information: acts for which a person is subject to arrest during a domestic violence police call; the arrest standard (whether arrest is mandatory or at police discretion); penalties for violating protection, restraining, and no-contact orders; and family members covered by domestic violence statutes. An explanatory

introduction is included. 31  
endnotes.

**Descriptors:**

family violence laws; law  
enforcement; protection orders;  
police operating procedures;  
state laws; arrest

Battered Women and Their Families.  
Intervention Strategies and  
Treatment Programs. //Springer  
Series on Social Work//.

Roberts, A. R., (Editor).  
Springer Publishing Co., New York,  
NY.

Book

209 pp.

Copyright 1984

Distributed By:

Springer Publishing Company,  
Inc.

536 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012

This book for practitioners  
presents techniques and  
intervention approaches used in  
innovative treatment programs for  
family violence. Assessment and  
treatment strategies are  
discussed, and a knowledge base is  
provided to assist psychologists  
and social workers working with  
violent families to help reduce  
the debilitating effects. Issues,  
programs, and services are  
delineated which offer promise for  
early casefinding, treatment of  
resistant clients, and improved  
social functioning of violent  
couples. Descriptions of program  
components, staffing patterns, and  
roles of intervenors are reviewed.

Chapters are included on current  
research in the neglected areas of  
adverse effects of family violence  
on children and the importance of  
social networks in helping  
battered women. An appendix  
describes a strategy for training  
police in domestic violence  
intervention techniques. Numerous  
references and charts.

**Descriptors:**

battered women; children in  
shelters; conjoint therapy;  
crisis intervention; batterers  
therapy; child witnesses of  
family violence; police  
operating procedures; shelters

Changing Police Practice: A  
Manual for Battered Women's  
Programs.

Hart, B. J.; Hegarty, M. E.;  
Weiss, J. S.

Training Material  
130 pp.

Copyright 1985

Distributed By:

Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence

2505 N. Front St.

Harrisburg, PA 17110

(717) 652-9571

This manual traces the experience  
of the Philadelphia Police  
Training Project (PPTP) in their  
work to change police policies in  
family violence situations.  
Organized to provide step-by-step  
instructions to other women's  
groups in their negotiations with  
police departments. The  
development of a curriculum and  
training methodology is discussed.

Specific incidents from the PPTP  
experience are used to illustrate  
procedures and pitfalls throughout  
the training. Suggestions are  
offered for changing police  
attitudes, coordinating overall  
justice system practices, and  
developing community outreach  
programs. Appendices give  
examples of new abuse legislation,  
model police directives, and  
various training forms.

**Descriptors:**

police attitudes; police  
operating procedures; police  
training; family violence laws;  
family disturbance calls;  
protection orders; police  
responsibility

Changing the Domestic Violence  
Policies of Urban Police  
Departments: Impact of the  
Minneapolis Experiment.

Cohn, E. G.  
Cambridge Univ. (England). Inst.  
of Criminology.  
Journal Article  
Copyright 1987  
Response.  
10(4):22-24.

The Crime Control Institute's telephone survey in 1986 of 176 urban police departments is examined. Respondents who knew about the Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment doubled from 32 percent in 1984 to 68 percent in 1985 and 1986. Police departments where practices had changed as a result of the Minneapolis Experiment increased from 3 percent in 1984 to 30 percent in 1986. Forty-six percent of respondents preferred to arrest the abuser in minor domestic assault cases, up from 10 percent in 1984 and 31 percent in 1985. Survey responses indicate that police training programs now include more coursework on domestic violence. The National Institute of Justice's program to replicate the Minneapolis Experiment in 6 cities around the United States is mentioned. 8 references.

**Descriptors:**

police attitudes; family disturbance calls; police operating procedures; policy formation; family violence research

A Community Approach to Domestic  
Violence. The Bellevue  
Stipulated Order of Continuance  
Program.

Bellevue Police Dept., WA.  
Technical Report  
49 pp.  
Distributed By:

Bellevue Police Department  
P.O. Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009

This manual examines an interagency diversionary program in Bellevue, Washington, for batterers who have been arrested for acts of domestic violence. The program is laid out in detail, emphasizing an approach to domestic violence that is both comprehensive and systematic. An evaluation of the program is given, including statistics on arrest and recidivism rates. Sample forms from the program are presented. 4 references and 11 figures.

**Descriptors:**

court ordered therapy; male batterers; prosecutorial diversion programs; washington; evaluation; police operating procedures; interagency cooperation

Confronting Domestic Violence: A  
Guide for Criminal Justice  
Agencies. //Issues and  
Practices in Criminal Justice//.

Golkasian, G. A.  
Abt Associates, Inc., Washington,  
DC.

Technical Report  
176 pp.

**Distributed By:**

Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, DC 20402

This report examines 20 legal agencies throughout the country that have adopted new practices for handling family violence incidents. Onsite studies were conducted in Seattle, San Francisco, and Westchester County, New York. The entire criminal justice system was examined including police response, arrest procedures, prosecution decisions, trials, sentencing, court-ordered therapy programs, probation,

protection assistance for the victim, and public awareness programs. It is suggested that early intervention and better coordination among services would help prevent further abuse. Appendices present examples of new laws and procedural guidelines for family violence from selected police departments and social service agencies. 182 references and 13 exhibits.

**Descriptors:**

spouse abuse; police operating procedures; sentencing guidelines; probation; prosecutorial diversion programs; protection orders; warrantless arrests; family violence laws

Coordinated Police, Judicial, and Social Service Response to Woman Battering: A Multiple-Baseline Evaluation Across Three Communities.

Gamache, D. J.; Edleson, J. L.; Schock, M. D.

Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women, Minneapolis. School Curriculum Project.

Chapter in Book

pp. 193-209

Copyright 1988

Publication Source:

In: Hotaling, G. T., Finkelhor, D., Kirkpatrick, J. T., and Straus, M. A. (Editors). Coping With Family Violence. Research and Policy Perspectives. Newbury Park, CA., Sage Publications, Inc.,

Distributed By:

Sage Publications, Inc.  
2111 W. Hillcrest Dr.  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

This chapter presents an experimentally controlled study of coordinated police, judicial, and social service interventions in 3 suburban Minnesota communities over a 2-year period. A significant impact was found upon

police and judicial responses to wife battering, but it is seen to be a slow process. Arrests as a percentage of family disturbance calls increased gradually as did successful prosecutions and the number of men mandated to counseling. While demonstrating the effectiveness of coordinated community intervention, this study raises a wide range of questions for further research. 14 references and 6 figures.

**Descriptors:**

interdisciplinary approach; intervention strategies; program coordination; community cooperation; legal processes; police operating procedures; social services

The Criminal Justice Response to Wife Assault.

Dutton, D. G.

British Columbia Univ., Vancouver (Canada). Dept. of Psychology.

Journal Article

Copyright 1987

Law and Human Behavior.

11(3):189-206.

This paper reviews the criminal justice response to wife abuse. By establishing a set of conditional probabilities for the reporting, detection, prosecution, and conviction for wife assault, a winnowing process occurs that is not dissimilar to that reported for other crimes. The probability of wife assault being detected by the criminal justice system is about 6.5 percent. Once it is detected, the probability of arrest is about 21.2 percent. Subsequent probabilities for conviction and punishment generate an aggregate probability that the perpetrator has a 0.38 percent chance of being punished by the courts. It is argued that the greatest impact on wife abuse recidivism reduction comes from

arrest rates regardless of court outcome. At present, however, it is not known whether this effect is produced by specific deterrence or by the didactic function of law. Too little is known of the subjective states of wife batterers to ascertain whether deterrence or some other mechanism accounts for the decreased recidivism reported after arrest. Numerous references. (Author abstract modified)

**Descriptors:**

wife abuse; recidivism; arrests; spouse abuse reporting; spouse abuse laws; police operating procedures; male batterers

Danger to Police in Domestic Disturbances - A New Look.

//Research in Brief Series//.

Garner, J.; Clemmer, E.  
National Inst. of Justice (DOJ),  
Washington, DC.  
Technical Report

8 pp.

**Distributed By:**

National Institute of Justice  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC

This study examines the belief that police officers who intervene in domestic disturbances are at high risk of injury themselves. Data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and 9 other studies show that such risk is overstated and other police assignments are more dangerous. Implications for police policy and family violence research are discussed. 42 references, 3 tables, and 2 figures.

**Descriptors:**

family disturbance calls; police action; crisis intervention; injuries; risk

The Denver Domestic Violence Manual.

Domestic Violence Manual Task Force, Denver, CO.

Training Material  
50 pp.

**Distributed By:**

Domestic Violence Task Force  
Denver, CO

This manual addresses the treatment of domestic violence in the Denver criminal justice system. Police and sheriff's department procedures, prosecution protocol, probation and diversion guidelines, victim advocacy, and batterers' treatment programs are examined. A summary of standards for these programs is also included.

**Descriptors:**

battered women; law enforcement; colorado; prosecution; judges role; police operating procedures; community resources

Does Arrest Really Deter Wife Battery? An Effort To Replicate the Findings of the Minneapolis Spouse Abuse Experiment.

Berk, R. A.; Newton, P. J.  
California Univ., Santa Barbara.  
Dept. of Sociology.

Journal Article

Copyright April 1985

American Sociological Review.

50():253-262.

In this paper an attempt is made to replicate the findings from the Minneapolis Spouse Abuse Experiment (Sherman and Berk, 1984). Using longitudinal data from the criminal justice system on 783 wife battery incidents, an ex post facto design coupled with a propensity score analysis reveals that arrests substantially reduce the number of new incidents of wife battery. In addition, reductions are greatest for

batterers whom the police would ordinarily be especially inclined to arrest. Policy and theoretical implications are discussed. 18 references, 4 tables, and 1 figure. (Author abstract modified)

**Descriptors:**

wife abuse; police operating procedures; california; incidence; intervention; longitudinal studies; battering; arrests

Domestic Violence is a Crime.  
Family Violence Project, San Francisco, CA.

Book

89 pp.

**Distributed By:**

Family Violence Project  
Bldg. One  
Suite 200  
1001 Potrero Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 821-4553  
\$15.00

Changes in the San Francisco criminal justice system engineered by the Family Violence Project are described. Included are police policy statements, sample police forms, prosecution strategies, district attorney's office form letters, information on protective court orders, and probation and diversion guidelines used in San Francisco. Statistical data on domestic violence are provided and ways to achieve systemic community change are discussed. Eight newspaper articles on the Family Violence Project and the criminal justice system are also included.

**Descriptors:**

spouse abuse; california; state laws; resource materials; police responsibility; law enforcement; trials; community programs

Domestic Violence is a Crime: A Case Study - San Francisco Family Violence Project.

Soler, E.

San Francisco Family Violence Project, CA.

Chapter in Book

pp. 21-35

Copyright 1987

**Publication Source:**

In: Sonkin, D. J. (Editor).  
Domestic Violence on Trial.  
Psychological and Legal  
Dimensions of Family Violence.  
New York, Springer Publishing  
Company, Inc.,

**Distributed By:**

Springer Publishing Company,  
Inc.  
536 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012

This article describes the strategies by which the San Francisco Family Violence Project successfully altered the criminal justice system's response to family violence. The typical police response before the inception of the program is described. Changes made in the components of the legal system are reviewed, such as police training programs and a victim's services unit in the district attorney's office. Ways in which community organizations can become involved in bringing about policy changes for the protection of battered women are also explained. 12 references.

**Descriptors:**

california; demonstration programs; law enforcement; criminal laws; battered women; community role; police operating procedures; prosecution

Domestic Violence. A Training Curriculum for Law Enforcement.

Martin, S.; McNeill, M.

District Attorney's Office, San Francisco, CA. Family Violence Project.



## Training Material

282 pp.

Copyright 1988

Distributed By:

The Family Violence Project

Bldg. One

Suite 200

1001 Potrero Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94110

(415) 553-1752

\$60.00

This 2-volume training program for police in San Francisco covers the penal code as it relates to the dynamics and effects of domestic violence. Interviewing techniques, making an arrest, incident reports, protection orders, victim safety, effects on children, and the value of police intervention are discussed. Scenarios for role playing are also included. Fifteen appendices address such issues as the California penal code and legislation on domestic violence, police liability, investigation and report writing, batterers' programs, resources for the victim, training resources, and California State guidelines for police response to domestic calls. 52 references.

## Descriptors:

law enforcement; curricula;  
 police training; family  
 disturbance calls; family  
 violence laws; crisis  
 intervention; police operating  
 procedures; california

Domestic Violence: Policy and  
 Procedures Manual.

Alternatives to Domestic Violence  
 Program, Hackensack, NJ.

Training Material

137 pp.

Distributed By:

Bergen County Department of  
 Human ServicesAlternatives to Domestic  
 Violence

355 Main St.

Hackensack, NJ 07601

(201) 487-8484

This manual is addressed to law enforcement officers involved with domestic violence, and includes New Jersey legislation on family violence, police procedures and directives, sample forms, and a list of community resources. The Fifth Annual Domestic Violence Offense Report (1987), compiled by the New Jersey State Police, and the Alternatives to Domestic Violence Hotline Training Manual are also enclosed.

## Descriptors:

police training; manuals; police  
 responsibility; state laws; new  
 jersey; family disturbance  
 calls; spouse abuse; police  
 operating procedures

Elder Abuse: Information for Law  
 Enforcement Officers.

Nash, R.

Metropolitan Chicago Coalition on  
 Aging, IL.

Book

29 pp.

Distributed By:

Illinois Department on Aging  
 Elder Abuse Program

Springfield, IL

(800) 252-8966

This manual, for law enforcement officials and other interested professionals, describes the underlying assumptions, possible interventions, and prevention strategies involved when dealing with suspected cases of elder abuse and neglect. The abuse situation is defined, prevalence is estimated, and elder abuse legislation in Illinois is discussed. The police role in elder abuse is examined, and support and legal services for police assistance are listed. Included as an appendix are the Illinois Department on Aging Elder Abuse Program Report/Intake forms.

**Descriptors:**

elder abuse; elder neglect; law enforcement; resource materials; illinois; elder abuse reporting; police role; elder abuse laws

An Empirical Analysis of Police Responses to Incidents of Wife Battery.

Berk, R. A.; Fenstermaker, S.; Newton, P. J.

California Univ., Los Angeles.

Dept. of Sociology.

Chapter in Book

pp. 158-168

Copyright 1988

Publication Source:

In: Hotaling, G. T., Finkelhor, D., Kirkpatrick, J. T., and Straus, M. A. (Editors). Coping With Family Violence. Research and Policy Perspectives.

Newbury Park, CA., Sage Publications, Inc.,

Distributed By:

Sage Publications, Inc.

2111 W. Hillcrest Dr.

Newbury Park, CA 91320

This study seeks to replicate 2 earlier studies on police response to domestic calls, and enlarges on them by examining other options available to police besides arrest. A different data source is used; prior studies used police records but here 237 victims of battering were interviewed. The impact of sample selection bias is also considered, which could result from only working with the incidents in which police were involved. Results suggest that irrelevant or inappropriate factors influence police actions, such as the ethnic background of the victim and offender, or who called the police. 19 references and 1 table.

**Descriptors:**

police action; family disturbance calls; law enforcement; analysis of variance; police attitudes

Explaining Variations in PoliceResponse to Domestic Violence:A Case Study in Detroit and New England.

Buzawa, E.

Lowell Univ., MA.

Chapter in Book

pp. 169-182

Copyright 1988

Publication Source:

In: Hotaling, G. T., Finkelhor, D., Kirkpatrick, J. T., and Straus, M. A. (Editors). Coping With Family Violence. Research and Policy Perspectives.

Newbury Park, CA., Sage Publications, Inc.,

Distributed By:

Sage Publications, Inc.

2111 W. Hillcrest Dr.

Newbury Park, CA 91320

This chapter examines police attitudes toward domestic violence in Detroit and in 9 New Hampshire police departments. Results show that police attitudes toward domestic violence are not as negative as earlier research suggested. Significant differences were found in attitudes in different police departments. Small departments may have greater uniformity in their attitudes than larger and more diverse police departments. All 4 models generally used to examine police attitudes and behavior appear to have applicability in studying police reactions to domestic violence. 39 references.

**Descriptors:**

police attitudes; case studies; michigan; new hampshire; family disturbance calls; law enforcement; models

Family Trouble Clinic: Family Service of Detroit and Wayne County.

Cantomi, L.

Family Service of Detroit and Wayne County, Detroit, MI.

Chapter in Book  
pp. 129-146  
Copyright 1984  
Publication Source:

In: Roberts, A. R. (Editor).  
Battered Women and Their  
Families: Intervention  
Strategies and Treatment  
Programs. (Springer Series on  
Social Work, Vol. 1). New York,  
Springer Publishing Co.,  
Distributed By:  
Springer Publishing Company,  
Inc.  
536 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012

This chapter looks at the Family  
Trouble Clinic in Detroit, a  
demonstration project which is an  
example of police-social worker  
cooperation. The clinic accepts  
referrals from police in cases of  
spouse abuse. Clinic  
administration is described. A  
hotline provides telephone  
counseling; in-person weekly  
counseling sessions, home visits,  
couple counseling and family  
counseling are also offered. An  
innovative police project to  
provide phone counseling and  
referral to nonemergency police  
callers is described. The Detroit  
Social Work - police partnership  
theme is emphasized, which has  
influenced numerous social  
agencies and community groups  
concerned with family violence.  
24 references.

Descriptors:  
police role; hot lines; couple  
therapy; referrals; family  
therapy; social workers role;  
interagency cooperation; case  
reports

Family Violence Resources in the  
Houston-Galveston Area  
(pro-gen).

Baytown Area Women's Center, TX.  
Information Packet  
47 pp.  
Distributed By:

Baytown Area Women's Center  
P.O. Box 3735  
Baytown, TX 77840  
(713) 422-2292

This information packet lists  
women's shelters and family  
violence resources in the  
Houston-Galveston area, provides  
statistical data on domestic  
violence, and outlines the  
services of the Baytown Area  
Women's Center. Psychological  
profiles of battered women,  
abusers, and their children are  
given. Responsibilities of the  
abuse victim in legal proceedings  
in Texas are detailed, and duties  
of the police and district  
attorney are delineated. A  
reading list and a sample  
protective order are also  
included. 19 references.

Descriptors:  
battered women; shelter  
programs; resource materials;  
police responsibility;  
legislation; texas; legal  
processes

The Impact of Research on Legal  
Policy: A Case Study of the  
Minneapolis Domestic Violence  
Experiment.

Sherman, L. W.; Cohn, E. G.  
Maryland Univ., College Park.  
Technical Report  
44 pp.

Publication Source:  
Supported by: National Inst. of  
Justice (DOJ), Washington, DC.,

This paper refutes an assertion by  
a family violence researcher that  
policy reform should not be based  
on the outcome of 1 experiment,  
but should be held in abeyance  
until the experiment is  
replicated. A panel survey of  
police departments in 146 cities  
of over 100,000 people suggests  
that the Minneapolis Domestic  
Violence Experiment has had a  
substantial impact on police

policy. Almost half of the respondents adopted an arrest policy for misdemeanor domestic violence within 2 years of the release of the experiment's results. One-third of those surveyed said their policy had been influenced by the experiment.

Although this impact may be premature and inappropriate until replications are complete, it is argued that publicity and policy influence should be used for the best evidence available about policies for ongoing social problems, however provisional that evidence might be. 62 references and 2 tables. (Author abstract modified)

**Descriptors:**

minnesota; family violence research; policy formation; police operating procedures; law enforcement; arrests; family disturbance calls

The Impact of Research on Police Practices. A Case Study of the Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment.

Sherman, L.; Garner, J.; Cohn, E.; Hamilton, E.

Maryland Univ., College Park.  
Proceedings Paper  
pp. 145-173

Copyright 1986

**Publication Source:**

In: Hatty, S. E. (Editor).  
National Conference on Domestic Violence, Volume 1, Canberra (Australia), November 11-15, 1985. Phillip, A.C.T. (Australia), Australian Inst. of Criminology,

**Distributed By:**

Australian Institute of Criminology  
10-18 Colbee Ct.  
Phillip, A.C.T., Australia 2606

This paper reviews the Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment and addresses the relationship between research and policy. The impact

of the experiment on police policy was so great that some critics have charged that research exerts too great an influence on policy. That criticism is evaluated in terms of the methodology used in the experiment. Results of a telephone survey of police departments across the nation are reported; results indicate that the Minneapolis experiment had a profound effect on the formulation of police policy throughout the country. 42 references and 2 tables.

**Descriptors:**

family violence research; policy formation; police operating procedures; mandatory arrest; publicity; law enforcement; minnesota; experimental programs

Integrating Feminist Theory and Practice. The Challenge of the Battered Women's Movement.

Pence, E.; Shepard, M.  
Minnesota Program Development, Inc., Minneapolis.

Chapter in Book

pp. 282-298

Copyright 1988

**Publication Source:**

In: Yllo, K. and Bograd, M. (Editors). Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse. Newbury Park, CA., Sage Publications, Inc.,

**Distributed By:**

Sage Publications, Inc.  
2111 W. Hillcrest Dr.  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

This chapter describes the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in Duluth, Minnesota, and its efforts to create institutional change in the criminal justice system: cases were brought to the courts for resolution; legal sanctions were imposed on batterers; shelter, education, and legal advocacy were offered to victims; and efforts were made to track assailants

during court-ordered treatment and probation. As part of this effort, the DAIP was organized to monitor the new system. The project's mistakes and successes are reviewed and an evaluation of project effectiveness is given. 22 references.

**Descriptors:**

community cooperation; legal processes; minnesota; empowerment; womens advocacy; court ordered therapy; police operating procedures; policy formation

The Judicial System and Domestic Violence--An Expanding Role.

Goolkasian, G. A.

Abt Associates, Inc., Cambridge, MA.

Journal Article

Copyright 1986

Response.

9(4):2-7.

This article reviews the role of the criminal justice system in ending domestic violence. Until recently domestic violence was seen as a private family matter instead of a crime by society at large. That view was reflected in the judicial system by routing family violence cases to family courts or by screening them out of the judicial system altogether. The current trend, however, is for the increased involvement of the criminal justice system in domestic violence cases. The role of the police and prosecutors is discussed in some detail, as well as the variety of options a judge has in handling family violence offenders. 26 references.

**Descriptors:**

judges role; courts; police role; judicial decisions; police operating procedures; law enforcement; court ordered therapy; probation

The Justice System's Response to Domestic Assault Cases: A Guide for Policy Development.

Pence, E.; Galaway, B., (Editor). Minnesota Program Development, Inc., Duluth. Domestic Abuse Intervention Project.

Technical Report

103 pp.

Copyright 1985

Distributed By:

Minnesota Program Development, Inc.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

206 W. 4th St.

Duluth, MN 55806

(218) 722-2781

This manual examines the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in Duluth, Minnesota. The program protects and assists battered women and brings legal sanctions against batterers. Using an interdisciplinary approach involving the police, the courts, and social service agencies, the Duluth community intervenes in domestic violence cases in which physical injuries have occurred. The batterer is arrested and arraigned. The victim is contacted by an advocate, who offers support, counseling, and safety. If convicted, the batterer may be sentenced to prison, or probation with intensive therapy and counseling. Batterers on probation are monitored very closely by all agencies involved, because the safety of the victim is paramount in DAIP. By bringing family violence cases into the court system, DAIP seeks to deter the assailant from further abuse by offering increasingly harsher penalties for each infraction. The policies and procedures must be uniform and consistent to show the community's condemnation of domestic violence.

**Descriptors:**

intervention; battering; community role; courts role;

police operating procedures;  
models; minnesota

Social Casework.  
69(8):498-504.

Legislative Trends in the Criminal  
Justice Response to Domestic  
Violence.

Buzawa, E. S.; Buzawa, C. G.  
Lowell Univ., MA.  
Chapter in Book  
pp. 134-147  
Copyright 1985

Publication Source:

In: Lincoln, A. J. and Straus,  
M. A. (Editors). Crime and the  
Family. Springfield, IL.,  
Charles C. Thomas,

Distributed By:

Charles C. Thomas  
2600 S. First St.  
Springfield, IL 62717

This chapter discusses State legislative efforts to revise the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence. Changes in police operating procedures are also reviewed. It is suggested that Federal domestic violence legislation would be preferable to State legislation. Failing Federal legislation, the development of a uniform State domestic violence statute would provide national consistency and would encourage the development of a unified law enforcement response to domestic violence. 15 references.

Descriptors:

legislation; law enforcement;  
courts; police operating  
procedures; spouse abuse;  
battering; trend analysis

Managing Domestic Violence in Two  
Urban Police Districts.

Caputo, R. K.  
Pennsylvania Univ., Philadelphia.  
Goldman-Lazarus Center for the  
Study of Social Work Practice.  
Journal Article  
Copyright October 1988

This article discusses the findings of a study of police referrals to and interviews with clients of a family violence demonstration project. The project offered social, legal, and advocacy services to domestic violence victims in 2 Chicago police districts. The primary focus of the study was to determine how victims and police managed domestic violence incidents. Demographic characteristics of 1,941 referrals are presented and the results of 100 initial and 34 followup interviews are analyzed. Victim satisfaction with police actions and advice is discussed. 9 references and 4 tables.

Descriptors:

police operating procedures;  
police action; followup studies;  
family disturbance calls;  
conflict tactics scales;  
illinois; police attitudes

The Minneapolis Domestic Violence  
Experiment.

Sherman, L. W.; Berk, R. A.  
Maryland Univ.  
Journal Article  
Copyright April 1984  
Police Foundation Reports.  
1-8.

Under a grant from the National Institute of Justice, the Minneapolis Police Department and the Police Foundation conducted an experiment from early 1981 to mid-1982 testing police responses to domestic violence; this report summarizes the findings and implications of the experiment and explains how it was designed and conducted. The study found that arrest was the most effective of 3 standard methods police use to

reduce and deter domestic violence. The other methods, attempting to negotiate peace and sending the assailant away from home for a few hours, were found to be considerably less effective.

While the results cannot be considered conclusive because they are the result of only a single experiment, they do strongly suggest that police should use arrest as the preferred method for dealing with domestic violence cases. 20 references, 3 graphs, and 2 tables.

**Descriptors:**

police action; family disturbance calls; arrests; family violence research; minnesota; experimental programs; law enforcement

National Conference on Domestic Violence, Volume 1. //Australian Institute of Criminology Seminar Proceedings No. 12//.

Hatty, S. E., (Editor).

Australian Inst. of Criminology,  
Canberra (Australia).

Proceedings Paper  
339 pp.

Copyright 1986

**Publication Source:**

Australian Inst. of Criminology,  
Canberra (Australia),

**Distributed By:**

Australian Institute of  
Criminology  
10-18 Colbee Ct.  
Phillip, A.C.T., Australia 2606

This collection of 27 papers was presented at the National Conference on Domestic Violence hosted by the Australian Institute of Criminology on November 11-15, 1985, in Canberra, at the request of the Attorney General. The papers are grouped around the themes of individual experiences, societal institutions and domestic violence, women of ethnic groups and battering, the role of sexuality in violence, family

violence research, and mental health services for victims and perpetrators. Over 300 individuals from government agencies, women's shelters, police departments, counseling centers, community health organizations, and migrant resources agencies participated in the conference. Numerous references.

**Descriptors:**

australia; conferences; battered women; family violence research; clinical intervention; courts; police role; ethnic groups

Oregon Supreme Court Allows Battered Woman To Sue Under Mandatory Arrest Law.

Livingston, F.

Center for Women Policy Studies,  
Washington DC.

**Journal Article**

Copyright January-February 1984  
Response.

6(1):3-4.

This article discusses the decision of the Oregon State Supreme Court to allow a battered woman to sue police who failed to enforce her protection order under the mandatory arrest provision of the Oregon Abuse Prevention Act. This was the first State Supreme Court ruling that a mandatory arrest provision can be a source of liability to noncomplying police departments. The court set forth guidelines for suits brought under the mandatory arrest statute, creating what seems to be strict liability for failure to arrest as required by the State. Because many States are adopting mandatory arrest provisions in conjunction with domestic violence legislation, police departments will have to institute new policies to implement these provisions in order to escape liability. 8 references.

**Descriptors:**

oregon; protection orders;  
liability; state supreme courts;  
judicial decisions; mandatory  
arrests; police operating  
procedures; spouse abuse laws

warrantless arrests; family  
violence laws; case studies

Police Intervention.

Roberts, A. R.  
Springer Publishing Co., New York,  
NY.

Chapter in Book  
pp. 116-128

Copyright 1984

**Publication Source:**

In: Roberts, A. R. (Editor).  
Battered Women and Their  
Families: Intervention  
Strategies and Treatment  
Programs. (Springer Series on  
Social Work, Vol. 1). New York,  
Springer Publishing Co.,

**Distributed By:**

Springer Publishing Company,  
Inc.  
536 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012

This chapter examines the recent changes in police operating procedures for dealing with domestic disturbance calls and family violence situations. Information from a national study of the organizational structure and function of 89 shelters for battered women is used to discuss cooperation between shelter staff and police. The need for shelters to provide police training is mentioned. The police point of view on domestic violence is examined, and a case example of interaction between police and violent partners is given. Benefits and drawbacks of making an arrest are considered. 29 references.

**Descriptors:**

police operating procedures;  
police attitudes; police  
training; shelter policies;  
family disturbance calls;

Police Response to Domestic Violence.

Caputo, R. K.  
United Charities of Chicago, IL.  
Dept. of Research and  
Information Systems.  
Journal Article  
Copyright February 1988  
Social Casework.  
69(2):81-87.

This article focuses on the systemic impact of Family Options, a domestic violence demonstration project, on 2 police districts in Chicago. The districts were monitored to check their compliance with the Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA), and with administrative orders requesting police to make referrals to the program. A major accomplishment of the program, roll-call training, was given to encourage police to refer clients to the program. The program director learned firsthand the existing attitudes of police officers and provided feedback to the police about their referral progress. An analysis of verified emergency (911) calls and an analysis of the relationship between emergency calls and police referrals revealed that over time domestic violence calls decreased.

Some of this decrease in domestic violence calls may have been due to 1 police district reclassifying such calls as miscellaneous to avoid additional paperwork. Referrals to the program did increase with time, and interviews with program clients indicated a satisfaction with police response.

7 references, 3 tables, and 2 figures.

**Descriptors:**

police operating procedures;  
police training; police



attitudes; family disturbance calls; police reports; referral; police role; illinois

Langan, P. A.; Innes, C. A.  
Bureau of Justice Statistics  
(DOJ), Washington, DC.  
Technical Report  
8 pp.

Distributed By:  
Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, DC

Policing Wife-Abuse: The Contribution Made by 'Domestic Disturbances' to Deaths and Injuries Among Police Officers.

Ellis, D.  
York Univ., North York, Ontario  
(Canada). Dept. of Sociology.  
Journal Article  
Copyright 1987  
Journal of Family Violence.  
2(4):319-333.

This article examines the claim that domestic calls account for a disproportionate number of deaths and injuries to police officers. The misinterpretation of statistics in research reports of the 1960's is analyzed. The widespread implementation of family crisis units in police departments that resulted from these reports did nothing to reduce deaths or injuries during domestic calls. The later shift to arresting wife abusers has seemingly decreased the number of family disturbance calls police must handle. The emergence of the women's movement helps explain the shift in emphasis from crisis intervention to arresting batterers. 42 references and 2 tables. (Author abstract modified)

**Descriptors:**

family disturbance calls; womens movement; police operating procedures; mandatory arrest; interdisciplinary approach; injuries; police responsibility; police role

Preventing Domestic Violence Against Women. //Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report//.

This report focuses on a study of domestic violence victims and examines the likelihood of repeat attacks if the victims call the police; the study is based on semi-annual interviews with 128,000 people conducted over a 4-year span. Findings presented suggest that calling police to intervene lowers the risk of another assault. Several explanations are suggested for the decreased probability of a second assault. Significant statistical data is included. 7 tables.

**Descriptors:**

wife abuse; battered women; prevention; family disturbance calls; statistical data; family violence research; police role; recidivism

Use of Police Services by Battered Women.

Abel, E. M.; Suh, E. K.  
University of Central Florida,  
Orlando. Dept. of Social Work.  
Journal Article  
Copyright November-December 1987  
Social Work.  
32(6):526-528.

This article describes research into why victims request police intervention in family violence situations. The study was based on intake data from all women entering a shelter in Orlando, Florida, from 1976 to 1986, a sample size of 300 cases. Specifically discussed are findings related to victim and abuser characteristics, variables

that significantly correlate with the victims' contacting the police, and general patterns of police service use by victims. The duration of the abuse and the education level of the victim were strong indicators of whether the victim would contact police. Practice implications are discussed for police, social workers, and other professionals working with battered women. 19 references and 6 tables.

Descriptors:

battered women; family disturbance calls; spouse abuse reporting; police; characteristics of abused; intervention; statistical data; characteristics of abuser

Descriptors:

washington; evaluation; state laws; spouse abuse laws; law enforcement; police operating procedures; shelters

The Washington State Domestic Violence Act: An Evaluation Project.

Crane, S. W.; Pahl, P.; Young, J.; Shenk, J.; Mork-O'Brien, J.  
Evergreen Legal Services, Seattle, WA.

Journal Article

Copyright Summer 1985

Response.

8(2):13-16.

Lack of enforcement of the Washington State Domestic Violence Act led in 1982 to the formation of the Domestic Violence Act Evaluation Project, to study the adequacy of the criminal justice system's compliance with the act and its response to domestic violence in general. Two surveys were conducted, with women who contacted shelters, and with police officials, prosecutors, and judges. The surveys uncovered serious shortcomings in complying with the procedural requirements of the act. This became apparent through interviews with the clients of shelter programs and was verified by interviews with criminal justice personnel.