

- ~~1) The Treasury Center, 9200 E. 20th Street, LB, (562) 980-0375, or,~~
- ~~2) School of attendance, if within the city.~~

~~Field interview cards should be filled out on all truant juveniles and forwarded to the JGAR sergeant.~~

8.4.9 Suspected Child Abuse Report – SCAR

Dispatching and Patrol Response

A Suspected Child Abuse Report or SCAR is a report generated through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and cross-reported to law enforcement agencies for investigation.

The DCFS Hotline receives information regarding suspected child abuse and generates a SCAR. DCFS immediately, or as soon as practically possible, must cross report by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case of any suspected child abuse or neglect [CPC §11166(l) and §11166(j)]. Incidents involving abuse or neglect in the City of Long Beach are faxed to Long Beach Police Communications Center, where a patrol unit is dispatched to investigate allegations of suspected abuse.

Definitions

Child – A person under the age of 18 years

Child Abuse or Neglect – Includes physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child, sexual abuse of a child, willful harming or injuring of a child, endangering of the person or health of a child, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury of a child (CPC §11165.6)

SCAR – Suspected Child Abuse Report (DOJ form 8572)

Communications Center Responsibilities

The Communications Room Supervisor is responsible for retrieving SCAR reports from the fax machine regularly during the work shift. All incoming SCAR's shall be read and reviewed by the supervisor to determine if the details in the report meet the criteria of child abuse or neglect. SCAR's that meet the criteria shall be forwarded to a dispatcher who shall immediately enter a call for service on any allegation indicating suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect of a child, according to current dispatch policy. The dispatcher shall dispatch a field unit to investigate the SCAR and make notification to the Field Supervisor.

If it is determined the location of the incident listed on the SCAR did not occur in Long Beach, the Communications Room Supervisor shall notify DCFS Command

Post of the misrouted SCAR, and telephonically notify the responsible agency (CPC §11165.9). Notification to the command post of the re-routed SCAR and the correct responsible agency will be annotated on the SCAR.

All SCAR's shall be faxed by the Communications Center to the Child Abuse Detail. If a call is generated from a SCAR report, the call number and any notes shall be annotated on the SCAR report.

The Communications Room Supervisor shall monitor the electronic transmission of SCAR's and notify the Child Abuse Detail sergeant if SCAR reports are not received via fax within a 24-hour period of time.

Patrol Officer Responsibilities

The responding officer shall contact the child listed as the victim on the SCAR to determine if child abuse has occurred. Upon suspicion that a child has been abused or neglected, the responding officer shall conduct a thorough investigation of the alleged abuse or neglect.

If the officer is unable to make contact with the victim, the officer shall make every attempt to confirm the address listed on the SCAR is accurate. If the address is correct but the officer does not make contact the officer will document in the call history that contact was not made. The officer shall notify the dispatcher that contact was not made and identify a time when the SCAR should be reopened to attempt contact at a later time. The officer shall document all information in the call history and the SCAR will be closed with No Disposition/ND. When the SCAR is reopened a field unit will be dispatched to continue the investigation. The original call will be reopened through the communications center.

If the officer determines the child is at another location such as school or daycare the officer must respond to that location if it is within the City of Long Beach to contact the child. All attempts to contact the child should be documented in the call history.

If contact is not made with the victim and the officer has exhausted all attempts to locate the victim, the officer shall notify the Field Supervisor and document it in the call history. The Field Supervisor shall notify the Watch Commander and a Watch Commander Log entry will be made when a SCAR is closed without making victim contact. In no event shall a SCAR be closed when contact is not made with the victim without Watch Commander approval.

Field Supervisor Responsibilities

- Upon notification that a unit is dispatched on a SCAR investigation, continually assess the status of the SCAR

- Notify the Watch Commander on all SCAR investigations where all leads have been exhausted and the victim is not located

Watch Commander Responsibilities

- Ensure all field supervisors are monitoring SCAR investigations
- Periodically evaluate progress of SCAR investigation and make determination if investigation should be passed on to the Child Abuse Detail
- Make Watch Commander Log entry when a victim has not been contacted and all means to contact a victim of a SCAR investigation are exhausted

Child Abuse Supervisor Responsibilities

- Review all SCAR's faxed from the Communications Center and determine if the crime of child abuse exists
- Ensure victim is contacted on all SCAR's requiring an investigation
- When necessary, contact Department of Children and Family Services or other entities in attempt to contact victim of SCAR. When located, dispatch unit to investigate SCAR
- Ensure investigation is conducted on all abuse allegations.
- Manage E-SCAR system. Input disposition of all investigations into E-SCAR

Family Services Section Lieutenant Responsibilities

- Randomly audit E-SCAR system.
- Ensure proper investigation and disposition of cases are conducted