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## Crime Scene Integrity and Investigation

### 500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding the discovery of a crime or crime scene by department members and any corresponding investigation of a crime.

This policy is intended to address criminal investigations of new crimes or crime scenes, not specific violations of an offender's terms of probation. See the Violations Policy.

### 500.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to secure the safety of the public and the preservation of crime scenes, when reasonably practicable, until relieved by local law enforcement, a supervisor, or other designated person. It is also the policy of this department to cooperate with local law enforcement in the investigation of newly discovered crimes as set forth in this policy.

### 500.3 INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Officers who become aware of a crime or crime scene, including one that may involve probationers under the supervision of the Department, should contact the appropriate local law enforcement agency as soon as practicable.

If the crime involves a probationer under supervision by the Department, the officer should coordinate investigative responsibilities and share relevant information with the responding local law enforcement agency.

An officer who reasonably believes that an individual present during the commission of a crime or at a crime scene is under probation supervision by another officer or other department should take reasonable steps to notify the individual's supervising officer or the associated department to coordinate any necessary investigative responsibilities.

#### 500.3.1 RESPONSE

Officers who encounter or who are first to arrive at a crime scene should:

- (a) Contact local law enforcement.
- (b) Contact other local agencies (e.g., emergency medical services, fire) and request additional assistance and resources, if appropriate.
- (c) Notify a supervisor.
- (d) When reasonably practicable, provide for the general safety of those within the immediate area by mitigating, reducing, or eliminating threats or dangers.
- (e) Evacuate the location safely as required or appropriate.
- (f) Identify potential witnesses.

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### **500.4 ARRESTS**

An officer at the location of a crime or crime scene should not initiate an arrest unless the officer has a reasonable belief that an immediate arrest is appropriate and warranted to prevent imminent harm to others and only if legally permitted under the circumstances. Additional guidance regarding officer arrest authority under California law is provided in the Probation Authority Policy.

Circumstances involving domestic violence or the crime of possession of medical marijuana may require exceptional handling under California law.

#### **500.4.1 ARRESTS AND INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Absent extenuating circumstances involving an imminent threat of death or bodily injury to the officer or another person, officers who have probable cause to believe that an offense involving domestic violence has occurred within their presence should request response by the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

This should be considered even if the officer has arrest authority under California law. However, if the officer is authorized or required to take enforcement action, the officer shall take steps to reasonably ensure that appropriate action is taken, including an arrest when there is probable cause to do so. In such case, any decision not to arrest shall be made by the officer's supervisor.

Officers shall also take steps to reasonably ensure any other mandatory action related to domestic violence is accomplished. This may include mandates related but not limited to the following:

- (a) Required victim notifications or assistance.
- (b) The service of court orders.
- (c) Seizure of firearms or other deadly weapons in accordance with Penal Code § 18250 if the incident involved threats of bodily harm or physical assault and the firearm or weapon is discovered in plain view or pursuant to consent or other lawful search.

#### **500.4.2 ARRESTS AND INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING THE USE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

Officers shall not arrest a cardholder or designated primary caregiver in possession of an identification card solely for the crime of possession, transportation, delivery, or cultivation of medical marijuana at or below the statutory amount unless there is probable cause to believe that (Health and Safety Code § 11362.71; Health and Safety Code § 11362.78):

- (a) The information contained in the card is false or falsified.
- (b) The card has been obtained or used by means of fraud.
- (c) The person possesses marijuana, but not for personal medical purposes.

Officers should refer to the Violations Policy when a probationer alleges possession or use of marijuana for medicinal purposes and the probationer's terms of supervision do not allow for medicinal use or possession.

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#### **500.5 EVIDENCE**

Officers should not conduct searches beyond the scope of their authority. Evidence discovered at a crime scene and that pertains to an officer's investigation of a probation violation should be documented and preserved as soon as practicable in accordance with the Search and Seizure Policy.

Officers who discover evidence that does not relate to a probation violation should consider deferring to local law enforcement personnel for collection.

#### **500.6 SPECIAL INCIDENT REPORTS**

Special Incident Reports (SIR) should include adequate investigative information and reference to all evidence and facts that are reasonably believed to be either incriminating or exculpatory to any individual in a related criminal case, as well as information that may adversely affect the credibility of a witness. If an officer learns of potentially incriminating or exculpatory information any time after submission of a report, the officer should prepare and submit a supplemental SIR documenting such information as soon as practicable.

Officers should proceed with the Violations Policy when the investigation involves a violation of probation conditions.

##### **500.6.1 DISCLOSURE OF REPORTS**

Upon completion, reports, including any supplemental reports, should be transmitted to the prosecutor's office and to any other agency to whom the original report was sent (e.g., local law enforcement agency). If information is believed to be privileged or confidential (e.g., informant or protected information), release should be approved by a supervisor prior to disclosure.

Disclosure of protected information in this context may be subject to the Records Maintenance and Release and Protected Information policies. See the Violations Policy, regarding information disclosure as part of a probation violation hearing.

#### **500.7 RECORDS**

Reports created in relation to a crime or crime scene investigation should be retained in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.