

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOMESTIC ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

Policy: 10-5
Effective: 01-01-09
Revised: 05-02-19

PURPOSE: So that all Jacksonville Police Department employees understand what is expected of them when they investigate a domestic abuse incident.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department to reduce the incidence and severity of domestic abuse; protect victims of domestic abuse and provide them with support through a combination of law enforcement and community services; and, promote officer safety by ensuring that officers are fully prepared to respond to and effectively deal with domestic abuse calls for service.

DEFINITIONS:

I. DOMESTIC ABUSE:

- A. Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm;
- B. Bodily harm, bodily injury or assault between family or household members; or
- C. Any sexual contact between family or household members whether minors or adults, which constitutes a crime under the laws of this State.

II. FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

- A. Spouses;
- B. Former spouses;
- C. Parents;
- D. Children;
- E. Persons related by blood within the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity;
- F. Persons who are presently or in the past have resided or cohabited together; or
- G. Persons who are presently or in the past have been in a "dating relationship" together.

III. Dating Relationship means a romantic or intimate social relationship between two (2) individuals which shall be determined by examining the following factors:

- A. The length of the relationship;
- B. The type of the relationship; and
- C. The frequency of interaction between the two (2) individuals involved in the relationship. 'Dating relationship' shall not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two (2) individuals in a business or social context.

PROCEDURES:

I. RESPONDING OFFICER PROCEDURES (7.10)

- A. On-Scene Investigation - When responding to a domestic abuse call, the officers shall:
 - 1. Restore order by gaining control of the situation;
 - 2. Take control of all weapons used or threatened to be used in the crime;
 - 3. Assess the need for medical attention and call for medical assistance, if indicated;