

“Keep Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods.”

ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1508.2, SPECIAL VICTIMS’ RESPONSE TEAM

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CONTENTS:

1. PURPOSE
2. POLICY
3. DEFINITIONS
4. PROCEDURES
 - [4.1 Special Victims Team Commander/Coordinator](#)
 - [4.2 Team Member Selection](#)
 - [4.3 Training](#)
 - [4.4 Utilization of a Special Victims Team Member](#)
5. FORMS AND APPENDICES

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes operational guidelines for the use of the Special Victims Response Team (SVRT).

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the Orlando Police Department to use, whenever possible, a specially trained group of sworn officers who will be first responders to incidents involving sex crimes and crimes against children.

3. DEFINITIONS

N/A

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 SPECIAL VICTIMS’ RESPONSE TEAM COMMANDER/COORDINATOR

The Special Victims Response Team (SVRT) Commander is the Violent Crimes Section Commander, as designated by the Chief of Police. The team shall also have a Coordinator (The Special Victims Unit Sergeant), who will assist with the administrative and operational directives.

4.2 TEAM MEMBER SELECTION

The Special Victims Response Team will consider new members when a letter of interest memorandum is submitted via the chain of command. Any sworn member who is in good standing may request consideration for the team. The following traits may be considered when selecting an applicant to fill a vacancy on the Special Victims Response Team:

- a. Communication skills
- b. Active listening skills
- c. Ability to work well under pressure
- d. Investigative skills
- e. Ability to be sensitive to the needs of victims of sexual battery and child abuse
- f. Ability to exercise good judgment and decision-making skills
- g. Related training and experience

The SVRT Coordinator will review each applicant's memorandum and consult with the Violent Crimes Section Commander for selection to the team.

4.3 TRAINING

Once appointed to the Special Victims Response Team, the member will be required to attend a basic SVRT training class and quarterly training. Team members will be required to successfully complete the 40-hour CJI Sex Crimes course, 40-hour CJI Child Sex Crimes course, and 40-hour CJI Child Abuse course as they become available. The SVRT Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling all team training sessions.

The SVRT training is mandatory. If a member is unable to attend training, they must notify the SVRT Coordinator as soon as possible. Repeated absences from training shall result in the member's removal from the team.

4.4 UTILIZATION OF A SPECIAL VICTIMS TEAM MEMBER

4.4.1 SPECIAL VICTIMS' UNIT

The Special Victims Unit is responsible for the following investigations:

- a. Sexual battery
- b. Home intrusion in which a sexual battery is attempted or occurs
- c. Child abduction, to include kidnapping or false imprisonment of a victim 17 years of age or younger
- d. Interference with custody
- e. Lewd or lascivious crimes, to include lewd and lascivious battery, molestation, conduct and exhibition
- f. Child exploitation crimes, to include domestic minor human/sex trafficking, internet crimes against children, and child sexual abuse material. These may include but are not limited to, procuring a child for prostitution, use of a child in a sexual performance, computer child sexual abuse material, and soliciting sexual acts with a child via the Internet.
- g. Child abuse
- h. Child neglect
- i. Lost or missing children, including runaways
- j. Obscene phone calls
- k. Sexual Offenders and Predators

4.4.2 SPECIAL VICTIMS' RESPONSE TEAM

When possible, an SVRT member shall offer their assistance in the following incidents:

- a. Sexual battery
- b. Lewd or lascivious crimes, to include lewd and lascivious battery, molestation, conduct and exhibition
- c. Child exploitation crimes, to include domestic minor human/sex trafficking, internet crimes against children, and child sexual abuse material. These may include, but are not limited to, procuring a child for prostitution, use of a child in a sexual performance, computer child sexual abuse material, and soliciting sexual acts with a child via the Internet.
- d. Child abuse
- e. Child neglect
- f. Human trafficking

When practical, SVRT members should take the primary role in the initial response and investigation for incidents listed in this section. An SVRT response does not negate the responsibilities of mandatory notifications as outlined in P&P 1103, Call-Out Procedures. In most cases, an SVU detective will respond to adopt the case from the SVRT member. The SVU supervisor will be consulted and make the determination on a case-by-case basis.

5. FORMS AND APPENDICES

N/A