

## SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

**DATE:** 08/01/2014  
**NUMBER:** 3.27 - INVESTIGATIONS  
**SUBJECT:** KIDNAP RESPONSE PROCEDURES  
**RELATED POLICY:** 3.01  
**ORIGINATING DIVISION:** INVESTIGATIONS II  
**NEW PROCEDURE:**   
**PROCEDURAL CHANGE:**   
**SUPERSEDES:** DP 3.27 –06/28/2011

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### **I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for responding to kidnapping incidents.

### **II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

### **III. BACKGROUND**

- A. Kidnapping incidents are highly sensitive and emotional situations requiring immediate police response and must be handled in a professional manner. The ultimate goal in resolving a kidnap is the safe recovery of the hostage, as well as the successful apprehension and prosecution of the suspect. Achieving maximum results with a minimum risk to the hostage or officers requires a plan of action.
- B. An active/in-progress kidnapping or abduction occurs when a person is taken against his/her will and is still missing, whether or not a ransom demand is made. The Robbery Unit shall have responsibility for the initial investigative response to all active/in-progress kidnapping or abductions.

## **IV. PROCEDURES**

### **A. Initial Response**

1. Patrol units should respond to kidnapping/abduction calls without delay and determine the extent of the crime by debriefing family members and/or the reporting parties.
2. Once it is determined that a kidnapping has occurred or is suspected, a callback for the Robbery Unit should be initiated.
  - a. In the event of an active/in-progress kidnapping or abduction, the Robbery Unit shall be notified as soon as possible during normal working hours (0600-2400).
  - b. After normal working hours, the Watch Commander's Office will notify the Duty Robbery Sergeant and Robbery Unit Lieutenant.
3. Officers shall continue their preliminary investigation until the arrival of investigative personnel.
4. Officers should then assist investigative personnel, as needed, during the course of the incident.

**NEW**

- B. The Robbery Unit will be notified and/or called back to establish containment of the incident and to initiate measures to locate and recover the victim and locate, identify, and arrest the suspect(s).
- C. If, during the initial investigation by the Robbery Unit, it is determined that the crime falls within the investigative responsibility of another unit (i.e., area command, Sex Crimes, Child Abuse, etc.), that unit shall be notified to respond to the scene to coordinate with the Robbery Unit.
- D. Tactical considerations for resolving kidnap incidents will be made by the scene supervisor and the command post supervisor, based upon continuing information that is received, with final approval of the incident commander.
- E. The following are investigative responsibility guidelines for kidnappings/abductions:
  1. Robbery Unit
    - a. Kidnapping for monetary gain (ransom/extortion)
    - b. Kidnapping robbery (commercial)

- c. Kidnapping for robbery (i.e., victim taken to ATM/car jacking)
- 2. Homicide Unit
  - a. Kidnapping resulting in a homicide
- 3. Sex Crimes Unit
  - a. Kidnapping for sexual assault (victim fourteen years of age or older)
- 4. Child Abuse Unit
  - a. Kidnapping for sexual assault (juvenile victim thirteen years of age or younger)
- 5. Domestic Violence Unit
  - a. Kidnapping which meets domestic violence criteria
- 6. District Attorney Child Stealing Unit (via the area command)
  - a. Child stealing or child abduction
- 7. Area Commands
  - a. All other kidnappings

F. Notification to FBI

- 1. In kidnapping incidents that leave the jurisdiction of the State of California or the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall be notified.
- 2. The FBI should also be notified in cases involving children under the age of twelve or involving an interstate/international nexus.
- 3. Since responsibility for out-of-state kidnap cases rests with the FBI, investigative responsibilities may be relinquished.
- 4. Notification of an incident to the FBI is the responsibility of the Robbery Unit supervisor.