PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE

Policy: 3

Effective date: 1/01/2021
Reviewed and Revised: 07/01/ 2026

Division: Law Enforcement

I. PURPOSE

This policy provides a consistent process for responding to domestic violence and to prescribe a preliminary course of action that deputies should take in response to domestic violence incidents.

II. POLICY

The Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office [PCSO] maintains that the nature and seriousness of crimes committed between family or household members are not mitigated solely because of the relationships or living arrangements of those involved. Our policy is that domestic violence be treated with the same consideration as violence in any other enforcement context.
It is also our policy that deputies take steps to properly investigate, identify predominant aggressors, and combine the use of appropriate community services with enforcement of the law in an effort to:

A. Break the cycle of domestic violence by preventing future incidents or reducing the frequency and/or seriousness of such incidents.
B. Protect victims of domestic violence and provide them with support.
C. Promote deputy safety when dealing with domestic violence situations.

PCSO recognizes that no one is immune from incidents of domestic violence, including law enforcement. As part of this policy, PCSO will take a proactive approach when dealing with any domestic violence committed by PCSO employees.

III. DEFINITIONS

Adult: Any person 18 years of age or older or a person under 18 years of age who is emancipated pursuant to 15 M.R.S. § 3506-A.

Abuse: The occurrence of the following acts between family or household members or dating partners or by a family or household member or dating partner upon a minor

child of a family or household member:
1. Attempting to cause or causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact, including sexual assaults under Title 17-A, chapter 11, except that contact as described in 17-A M.R.S. § 106(1), (physical force by persons with special responsibilities) is excluded from this definition.
2. Attempting to place or placing another in fear of bodily injury through any course of conduct, including, but not limited to, threatening, harassing, or tormenting behavior.
3. Compelling a person by force, threat of force, or intimidation to engage in conduct from which the person has the right or privilege to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage.
4. Knowingly restricting the movements of another person substantially without that person's consent or other lawful authority by:

a. Removing that person from that person's residence, place of business, or school;

b. Moving that person, a substantial distance from the vicinity where that person was found; or

c. Confining that person for a substantial period either in the place where the restriction commences or in a place to which that person has been moved.

5. Communicating to a person a threat to commit, or to cause to be committed, a crime of violence dangerous to human life against the person to whom the communication is made or another, and the natural and probable consequence of the threat, whether or not that consequence in fact occurs, is to place the person to whom the threat is communicated, or the person against whom the threat is made, in reasonable fear that the crime will be committed; or
6. Repeatedly and without reasonable cause:

a. Following the plaintiff, or

b. Being at or in the vicinity of the plaintiff's home, school, business, or place of employment.

Confidential Communications: All information, whether written or oral, transmitted between a victim and a domestic violence advocate in the course of the working relationship. Confidential communications include, but are not limited to, information received or given by the advocate in the course of the working relationship, advice, records, reports, notes, memoranda, working papers, electronic communications, casefiles, history, and statistical data, including name, date of birth, and social security number, that personally identify the victim.

Dating Partners: Individuals currently or formerly involved in dating each other, whether or not the individuals are or were sexual partners.

Domestic Partners: Two unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.

Domestic Violence Crimes: Crimes of domestic violence assault; domestic violence aggravated assault; domestic violence elevated aggravated assault, domestic violence elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person; domestic violence criminal

threatening; domestic violence terrorizing; domestic violence stalking; and domestic violence reckless conduct.

Domestic Violence Advocate: An employee of or volunteer for a domestic violence service provider who has undergone at least 40 hours of training on state and federal laws, rules, and regulations related to the confidentiality of victims of domestic violence, mandated reporting, civil and criminal legal procedures, advocacy skills, and local resources for victims.

Domestic Violence Service Provider: A private, nonprofit, or tribal organization that has a primary function to provide services and assistance to victims of domestic violence through crisis intervention, safety planning, legal information, and educational information pertaining to domestic violence, i.e., the Domestic Violence Resource Centers of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the advocacy centers of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition are domestic violence service providers
Family or Household Members: Spouses or domestic partners or former spouses or former domestic partners, individuals presently or formerly living together as spouses, natural parents of the same child, adult household members related by consanguinity or affinity (blood or marriage) or minor children of a household member when the offender is an adult household member. Holding oneself out to be a spouse shall not be necessary to constitute "living as spouses."

Law Enforcement PCSO Employee: All sworn and non-sworn members of PCSO.

Predominant Aggressor: The person most responsible for the violence, uses the higher level of violence, has an established history of violence in the relationship, and represents the more serious present threat of violence, when one or both parties have committed some violence towards each other, and it is unclear whether one party was acting in self-defense.

Predominant Aggressor Analysis: The method used by an deputy to properly identify a predominant aggressor in order to prevent the inappropriate arrest of a victim by focusing on the totality of the circumstances and the broader context of the relationship dynamics between the two parties (See Appendix#3).

Risk Assessment: A systematic process of evaluating the potential risks and hazards and analyzing that information to predict the likelihood of some negative event, i.e., re-abuse, for example, as measured by re-arrest.

Self-defense: A person is justified in using a reasonable degree of physical force upon another person to defend the person or a third party from what the person reasonably believes to be the imminent use of unlawful force. (See Title 17-A M.R.S. § 108.)

Stalking: A pattern of behavior – 2 or more acts – directed towards an individual by another that results in the person to whom the behavior is directed suffering serious inconvenience or emotional distress, fearing bodily injury or death for themselves, a close relation, or an animal they own or possess. The behaviors can involve overt

criminal behavior, seemingly non-criminal, innocent behavior, or both. Stalking can escalate and ultimately result in actual physical harm to its intended subject. (See 17-A M.R.S. § 210-A (1)(A).)

Strangulation: Impeding the breathing or circulation of the blood of another person by intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly applying pressure on the person's throat or neck. Strangulation is an aggravated assault under Maine law. See 17-A M.R.S. § 208(1)(C).

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General

Law enforcement deputies are responsible for being familiar with the applicable statutes of 15 M.R.S.A. Chapter 12-A, Chapter 101, 19-A M.R.S. Chapter 103, and 17-A M.R.S. § 15.

B. Emergency Communication Specialist (ECS) [dispatcher] Responsibilities: the ECS, who receives a domestic violence report, should provide the responding deputies with vital information that could save the victim's and/or deputies' lives. The ECS should treat domestic violence calls with the same priority as any other life-threatening call and, whenever possible, dispatch at least two deputies to every incident.

1. In addition to information usually gathered, an effort should be made to determine and relay the pertinent information to responding deputies, including but not limited to:
    a. Whether the suspect is present and, if not, the suspect's description and possible whereabouts.
    b. Whether weapons are involved.
    c. Whether the offender is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
    d. Whether children are present.
    e. Whether a current protective order, bail conditions, and/or probation conditions are in effect.
    f. Complaint history at that location.
    g. Whether medical attention is needed.
    h. Any "excited utterances" made by the caller.
    i. Any PCSO or court record or risk assessment pertinent to either party.
    j. Threats to responding law enforcement.
2. The ECS should attempt to keep the caller on the telephone as long as possible and should tell the caller that help is on the way and when the caller can expect deputies to arrive.
3. Relay ongoing information provided by the caller to the responding deputies.
4. The ECS should NOT cancel the law enforcement response to a domestic violence complaint based solely on a follow-up call from the residence requesting such cancellation. However, the ECS shall advise the responding deputies of the request.
5. The ECS should ensure that deputies at the scene of an incident of violence or violation of an order of protection are informed of a recorded prior incident of violence involving the abused party and can verify the effective dates and terms of a recorded order of protection.
6. If the call involves, or appears to involve, a law enforcement deputy or other employee of PCSO, the deputy-in-charge must immediately notify the Sheriff, regardless of the

involved employee's jurisdiction.

C. Initial Deputy Response
1. The deputy should avoid the use of sirens and emergency lights in the vicinity of the scene of the incident. Deputies should remain alert and note persons encountered as they approach the scene. If possible, a deputy should question any potential witnesses who are leaving the scene.
2. When feasible, the deputy should not park the police vehicle directly in front of the residence of the disturbance. The deputy should be alert to assailants leaving the scene and for the deployment of weapons from doors, windows, or nearby vehicles.
3. The deputy should consider the surroundings before knocking on the door. The deputy should listen and look through any nearby windows to obtain additional information about the situation (the layout of the house, the number of people involved, weapons, etc.).
4. Deputies must be concerned for their own safety as well as the victim's. To minimize the possibility of injury, the deputy should stand on the side of the door when knocking. The unexpected may occur when the door opens.
5.If the incident involves a law enforcement deputy or other employee of a law enforcement PCSO as the suspect, refer to additional initial deputy response protocols below in section J of this policy.

D. Complaint Investigation
Upon arriving at a domestic violence call, deputies shall:
1. Identify oneself as a deputy by name, explain the law enforcement presence, and request entry into the home. If the complainant is at home, ask to see them. If the person who called law enforcement is not the subject of the call, the deputy should not reveal the caller's name.
2. Restore order by gaining control of the situation, in particular by securing the suspect and controlling the suspect's movement and ability to interact visually or verbally with others at the scene, especially the victim.
3. Take control of all weapons used or threatened to be used in the crime.
4. Assess the need for medical attention and call for medical assistance, if needed. In cases involving non-fatal strangulation, always call Emergency Medical Services to examine the victim, regardless of whether visible injury exists.
5. If any of the parties are of limited English proficiency, deputies should arrange for interpretation services.
6. Interview all parties, to include children, neighbors, and other witnesses, separately.
7. Process the crime scene.
8. It is the policy of this PCSO not to make dual arrests in cases when both parties have committed some violence against the other. Deputies shall utilize the predominant aggressor analysis to:

a. Establish that probable cause exists that a crime has occurred.
b. Actively investigate whether any party used self-defense.
c. Determine who is the overall predominant aggressor in the relationship. This is the person who poses the greatest past/present/future risk to the other, who uses an overall pattern of coercive, controlling tactics, and who places the other in fear. These steps in the analysis should be completed in order. Deputies should

consult the Predominant Aggressor Decision Tree when utilizing the analysis. This analysis is to be used in making arrest decisions.

9. Collect and record evidence, and where appropriate, take color photos of injuries and property damage.

10. If the offender has left the scene and a crime has been committed, deputies will search the immediate area, obtain information from victims and witnesses to where the offender might be, and make a warrantless arrest when the offender is found, or write an affidavit for an arrest warrant and arrest the offender.

11. If probable cause does not exist to arrest for violation of any domestic violence crime, deputies must indicate in the PCSO incident report the reason for such.

12. In-custody arrest is mandatory when a deputy has probable cause to believe that any of the following crimes has occurred pursuant to Title 19-A M.R.S. § 4114.

a. Criminal violation of a protection order has occurred. A criminal violation is when the defendant violates 19-A M.R.S. §4110, subsection 3, paragraphs A – J.

b. Domestic violence aggravated assault.

c. Domestic violence elevated aggravated assault.

d. Domestic violence elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person,

13. A warrantless arrest is authorized if a deputy has probable cause to believe that a person violated an order issued pursuant to 15 M.R.S. §321(6). Furthermore, when a deputy has reason to believe that a family or household member has been abused, the deputy shall immediately use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, which may include arresting the abusing party with or without a warrant pursuant to 19-A M.R.S. § 4113(3) and Title 17-A, § 15.

14. A warrantless arrest is also authorized if a deputy has probable cause to believe a person has committed or is committing any crime listed in 17-A M.R.S. § 15.

15. Deputies must make a good-faith effort to complete a validated, evidence-based domestic violence risk assessment, currently the Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (ODARA), on the offender:

a. ODARA is administered after an arrest determination has been made in any case involving a male or female offender arrested for domestic violence assault, domestic violence aggravated assault, domestic violence elevated aggravated assault, domestic violence elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person, domestic violence criminal threatening with a dangerous weapon, and/or domestic violence terrorizing when the circumstances include:

1. An act of violence involving physical contact with the victim or;

2. A credible threat of death with a weapon in hand made in the presence of the victim.

b. ODARA is only validated for use in eligible relationships, which include current or former adult heterosexual intimate or dating partnerships; it is not yet validated for use in same sex intimate partnerships or cases involving other family or household member relationships.

c. In addition to completing the ODARA score sheet, the deputy should document in the narrative of the investigative report the specific facts and circumstances that support the scoring of the ODARA.

d. The deputy must provide the ODARA results to the Bail Commissioner, if appropriate. (See19-A M.R.S. § 4114(6)(E).)

e. The deputy must send the ODARA results to the Office of the District Attorney

for the county in which the abuse took place. (See 19-A M.R.S. § 4114(6)(E).)

f. The deputy should attach the ODARA scoresheet to the incident report and also provide details about the sources of information and scoring of each ODARA item in the report narrative.

16. Complete appropriate offense or arrest reports and include, if possible and at a minimum, the following:

a. Time of dispatch, time on the way to the call, and time of arrival.

b. Description of the scene and the appearance and demeanor of the parties.

c. Excited utterances/present sense impressions from the parties or witnesses.

d. The deputy's own observations of injury, people, and the scene.

e. Each person's description of the relationship between the parties.

f. Photographs.

g. Any other physical evidence, including digital technology.

h. Names, ages, addresses, and phone numbers of witnesses (including children and neighbors).

i. Written statements from the victim(s) and witness(es).

j. The three-step analysis is used to determine the predominant aggressor.

k. Whether an arrest was made.

l. Details about the validated, evidence-based domestic violence risk assessment (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment), including the sources of information for each item and the score, if an arrest is made for an eligible crime and an eligible relationship exists.

m. Details about medical intervention, if any.

n. Request for medical records.

o. Note all existing Protection from Abuse Orders, bail conditions, and probation conditions.

p. Information and referrals provided to the victim, including Protection from Abuse Order information if no order already exists, and contact information for the domestic violence resource centers of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the advocacy centers of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition.

q. ATN and CTN numbers when necessary.

r. Current contact information for the victim or another person who knows where to contact the victim.

s. SBI and Triple-I records.

17. The deputy must a provide a copy of the incident report or intelligence or investigative record information to the local Domestic Violence Resource Center for all calls involving domestic abuse, as permitted by 16 M.R.S. § 806(4), as expeditiously as practical, unless, only after an individual case-by-case analysis, withholding the investigative record information is reasonably necessary to protect against the harms outlined in 16 M.R.S. §804.

18. PCSO shall ensure that when a person files multiple, separate complaints regarding the behavior of another person that may indicate a course of conduct constituting stalking, as defined in Title 17-A, section 210-A, those complaints are reviewed together to determine if the other person has engaged in stalking.

E. Bail Commissioner Information Form

1. Deputies should make a good-faith effort to complete the Bail Commissioner

Information Form. The form includes:
a. The deputy's name, PCSO, incident number, ATN, and CTN numbers.
b. The pending charges with statutory citations and the class of the pending crimes charged.
c. The defendant's name, DOB, address(es), phone numbers, place of employment, physical description, and location of arrest.
d. The victim's name, DOB, relationship to the defendant, phone numbers, and the victim's address, only if it is clear the defendant already knows where the victim lives.
e. Maine SBI, NCIC Triple III (if appropriate), BMV history information, and any other history.
f. Failing to Appear, Protection for Abuse/Harassment Orders or Other Bail Conditions information.
g. When appropriate, the results of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), a validated, evidence-based domestic violence risk assessment.
h. Whether the incident included the use of strangulation, stalking, or a sexual assault offense.
i. Other information to include, but not limited to, the presence/use/threat of weapons, current or past threats to kill self/others/pets, alcohol, or drug use, if the victim is pregnant, or if there was a recent separation.

F. On Scene Assistance to Victims and Dependents
1. Maine law provides that whenever a deputy has reason to believe that a family or household member has been abused, the deputy shall immediately use all reasonable means to prevent further violence. The LEO shall assist the victims of domestic violence in the following manner:

a. If any of the parties are Limited English Proficient, deputies should arrange for interpretation services.
b. Advise all parties about the criminal nature of domestic violence, its potential for escalation, and that help is available.
c. Remain on the scene as long as there is a reasonable belief that there is a danger to the physical safety of that person without the presence of a deputy, including, but not limited to, staying in the dwelling unit.
d. Assist that person in obtaining medical treatment necessitated by an assault, including driving the victim to the emergency room of the nearest hospital.
e. Give that person immediate and adequate written notice of rights, which shall include information summarizing the procedures and relief available to victims of violence. This includes information about Protection from Abuse Orders and contact information for local domestic violence resource centers of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the advocacy centers of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition.
f. In circumstances in which the victim must leave the residence temporarily, deputies should offer the victim assistance in locating lodging with family, friends, public accommodations, or a domestic violence shelter.

G. Victim Notification (See 17-A M.R.S. § 2107)
1. For the jail to provide victim notification, the deputy must provide the current victim contact information to the jail to which the defendant is delivered.

2. In a case of a crime involving domestic violence, the jail shall notify a victim of a defendant's release on pre-conviction bail as soon as possible, but no later than one hour after the defendant's release. If the defendant is released on bail before being delivered to jail, the arresting deputy shall notify the victim as provided in this section.
3. Victim notification must be made by a telephone call directly to the victim. If the jail has not succeeded in contacting the victim after exercising due diligence in attempting to do so, notification of the defendant's release must be made to PCSO.
4. PCSO shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the victim of the defendant's release. All notification attempts will be logged.
5. Notification to a minor victim must be made to an adult who is the victim's parent or legal guardian.

H. Law Enforcement Deputy Follow-Up
1. Deputies assigned to domestic violence follow-up, accompanied by a back-up deputy, if reasonably available, shall attempt to meet with the victim within 48 hours of all domestic violence incidents, whether an arrest was made or not. In doing so, the deputy can:

a. Check on the victim's safety and well-being.
b. Identify any language, cultural, or other barriers to assistance and safety and provide referrals to the local domestic violence resource center, sexual assault service provider, and/or culturally specific domestic violence organization.
c. Ensure adherence to bail conditions, protection orders, and any other court orders. If violations are found, the deputy should determine the nature of bail and court orders, as they are subject to change, and arrest the offender if found to be in violation.
d. Further advise the victim of information about Protection from Abuse Orders and domestic violence advocacy programs.
e. Collect statements or other evidence.
f. Take follow-up photographs of any injuries from the original incident, if warranted.
g. Check social media and other digital platforms to determine whether any misuse of technology and/or stalking is occurring.
h. The deputy shall complete a supplemental report regarding each follow-up visit and will ensure that it is attached to the original paperwork for the Office of the District Attorney. The deputy will also ensure that the Office of the District Attorney receives any additional photographs or other evidence obtained during the follow-up visit.
i. If the deputy is unable to contact the victim within 48 hours, the deputy will contact their supervisor, who will make alternative arrangements to ensure that reasonable efforts to contact the victim continue.

I. Property Retrieval
1. Deputies shall assist the retrieving individuals in obtaining the safe retrieval of the personal property belonging to the victim and/or defendant by using the following procedures:

a. Deputies shall make reasonable efforts to ensure property retrieval has not already occurred. The deputy shall then contact each party to determine a

convenient time for the retrieving individual to retrieve personal belongings, if possible, prioritizing the victim's schedule and giving the victim at least 24 hours' notice.
b. When possible, meet the retrieving individual at a pre-determined neutral location.
c. Determine what personal belongings are to be retrieved. These should be limited to clothing, children's clothing, toiletry items, and other reasonable personal belongings.
d. In a "keep the peace" retrieval for additional property, the deputy shall review any court order provided detailing the property to be retrieved. The retrieving individual may not remove property unless specifically designated in the order, unless both parties confirm the agreement. If any property is in dispute and possession is not designated in the order, the deputy may not allow the individual retrieving the property to remove it. The deputy may refer the parties to the court for resolution of the matter.
e. The deputy should keep the retrieving individual at a safe distance until it can be determined that the other person is not present.
f. Once the deputy determines that the other person is not present, the retrieving individual can be accompanied to the location to obtain personal belongings.
g. The deputy shall accompany the retrieving individual throughout the entire retrieval.
h. If it is determined that the other person is at the location and violating any bail conditions or protective order stipulations, the deputy shall arrest that person for the violation.
i. If it is determined that the other person is at the location and there is a "no contact" provision in place, the deputy shall attempt to have that person leave before the individual retrieving personal items arrives.
j. The deputy shall check the existence of any order or conviction that prohibits possession of firearms by the retrieving individual. The deputy shall not allow any prohibited person to retrieve firearms or ammunition.

J. Procedures Involving a Law Enforcement PCSO Employee.
1. PCSO recognizes that no one is immune from incidents of domestic violence, including law enforcement. As part of this policy, this PCSO will take a proactive approach when responding to any domestic violence committed by PCSO employees. Incidents of domestic violence involving PCSO employees shall be investigated utilizing both the procedures outlined above in this policy and the following procedures and considerations:
1. This PCSO shall, either in response to observed warning signs or at the request of a deputy or a member of an PCSO employee's family, provide non-punitive avenues of assistance to employees, their partners, and other family members to mitigate potential acts of domestic violence.
2. This PCSO shall identify a procedure for making confidential referrals to counseling services, either internally or in collaboration with existing community services that have specific expertise in domestic violence.
3. Information learned by the Sheriff about an employee's conduct relating to the commission of domestic abuse, which could include criminal conduct, being a defendant

in a temporary or permanent protective order in any jurisdiction, or other conduct reportable to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy under 25 M.R.S. § 2807, shall be investigated both criminally and administratively.
4. Following a domestic violence incident, the PCSO shall designate a member of the command staff as the principal contact for the victim. The assigned contact deputy will:
    a. Keep the victim apprised of the case throughout the adjudication process.
    b. Inform the victim of confidentiality policies and their limitations and ensure that confidentiality is maintained throughout the case.
5. When responding to a domestic violence incident involving a law enforcement deputy or other law enforcement PCSO employee from another jurisdiction, all law enforcement personnel shall follow the same procedures that are to be followed in responding to a domestic abuse complaint involving an employee from their own PCSO. The Sheriff shall provide written notification to the CLEO in the suspect's jurisdiction promptly, and if possible, within 24 hours.
6. 25 M.R.S. § 2807 requires the Sheriff to notify the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy within 30 days when a deputy employed by PCSO is convicted of a crime or violation or engages in conduct that could result in suspension or revocation of the individual's certification.
7. In practice, this could include, for example, a domestic violence-related arrest, or being the defendant in a temporary or permanent Protection from Abuse Order. This could also include other conduct not resulting in an arrest, charge or conviction that would constitute engaging in conduct that is prohibited or penalized by state law as murder or a Class A, Class B, Class C or Class D crime or by any provision of Title 17-A, chapter 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or45, as per 25 M.R.S. § 2806-A(5)(F).

K. Supervisor Responsibilities
1. Supervisors shall be cognizant of and document all behavior, on-duty or off-duty, in which employees may be exhibiting signs of possible domestic violence related problems, including increased use of force during arrests, alcohol and/or drug abuse, increase in "controlling" behaviors, stalking activity, citizen and fellow deputy complaints of unwarranted aggression and verbal abuse, inappropriate aggression towards animals, and on-duty or off-duty injuries. Off-duty-related problems and injuries would include issues as a victim or a suspect.
2. Supervisors shall immediately make their ranking supervisor aware of any such behavior.
3. The Sheriff shall be informed of such circumstances or concerns promptly through the chain of command, and if possible, within 24 hours.
4. Whenever a PCSO employee is arrested, the supervisor shall relieve the employee of any PCSO-issued weapons, provided that the weapons can be legally obtained. The supervisor shall inquire whether the victim wants any weapons removed from the home for safekeeping by PCSO, and thereafter remove such weapons, provided that such removal is accomplished legally.
5. If an incident involves the Sheriff of PCSO or the CLEO of another jurisdiction, the supervisor shall immediately notify the individual who has direct oversight for the CLEO.

L. Responding Law Enforcement Deputy Responsibilities

1. Investigating deputies follow all procedures outlined in this policy, in addition to the procedures and considerations in this section.
2. Upon arrival on the scene of a domestic violence call or incident involving a law enforcement deputy or other employee of a law enforcement PCSO, the primary deputy shall immediately notify dispatch and notify or request notification of a supervisor of higher rank than the involved deputy. The ranking deputy should report to the scene, regardless of the involved deputy's jurisdiction.
3. Responding deputies shall be aware of the heightened risk that a suspect who is a law enforcement deputy will likely possess firearms, other weapons, physical combat training, or all three.
4. Deputies should be aware that the suspect might attempt to make emotional appeals to responding deputies.
5. In cases involving a suspect who is a law enforcement deputy or other employee of a law enforcement PCSO, responding deputies must respond to the victim in a way that assures the victim that their case will be investigated and handled thoroughly and professionally, without regard for the suspect's employment as a law enforcement deputy.
6. Responding deputies shall seek out and preserve secondary sources of information and supplemental evidence to ensure that coercion and tampering are not being attempted or committed, and to support the case if the victim may discontinue involvement in the case for safety or other reasons.

M. Law Enforcement Employees' Responsibilities
1. PCSO employees are encouraged and entitled to seek confidential assistance from PCSO to prevent a problem from escalating to the level of criminal conduct against a family or household member.
2. PCSO employees with definite knowledge of violence and/or violence involving fellow employees must report such information promptly to their supervisor. Failure to do so will subject the employee to disciplinary action.
3. All employees shall be aware of possible witness or victim intimidation, coercion, or tampering. Whenever an employee suspects this is occurring, the employee shall prepare a written report and immediately deliver it to the investigator in charge of the case.
4. Employees who are the subject of a criminal investigation, protective order related to domestic violence, regardless of jurisdiction, are required to report themselves to the Sheriff and provide notice of the court dates, times, appearances, and proceedings in a timely manner.

N. Protection from Abuse ("PFA") Orders
1. Arrest is mandatory if there is probable cause to believe that a violation of a court-approved Protection Order or a consent agreement has occurred, pursuant to 19-A M.R.S. §4114(5).
2. The service of a Protection from Abuse Order shall be served as quickly as possible. The service of a temporary, emergency, or interim order must be attempted within 48 hours after receiving notice of the order from the court.
3. Once a Protection from Abuse Order has been issued, whether temporary or permanent, deputies shall place a high priority on service of the Protection Order, or any

modification of such order. The order must be served on the individual by delivering a copy to the individual personally.
4. Pre-service notification to the Defendant is not the default approach to serving the Protection Order. If it is determined that such notification is “necessary to ensure timely service,” contact with the Plaintiff is required to determine if there is information helpful to service of the order or any safety concerns about pre-service notification. In high-risk cases where safety makes pre-service communication with the defendant necessary, the Deputy should not specify whether relinquishment of firearms is part of the court’s order.
5. If the Protection Order being served requires that firearms be relinquished to law enforcement, the serving Deputy must make a good-faith effort to determine whether the defendant possesses any firearms and to take any firearms that are in the defendant's possession. The serving Deputy has no discretion to facilitate the transfer of firearms to someone other than law enforcement.
6. If the individual refuses to receive any Protection Order, the deputy shall leave the Protection Order in the immediate presence of the individual and advise the individual of the content of the Protection Order, the fact that the individual has been officially served, and the consequences of a violation of the Protection Order.
7. Deputies will document all Protection Order services and/or attempts, articulating the circumstances surrounding the service/attempt of the Protection Order. Once service has been made, the serving PCSO shall ensure the service information is entered into the METRO System without delay, and the return of service is sent to the court. If the Protection Order requires the relinquishment of firearms, the deputy will file a Notice of Relinquishment (PA-024) with the court that issued the order within one business day of the order being served. The PA-024 form will be filed regardless of whether any firearms were actually relinquished. The deputy must also notify other relevant law enforcement agencies in any other jurisdiction where a defendant reports firearms to be located.
8. Uniform Full Faith and Credit Clause: Deputies shall expeditiously enforce valid Protection Orders from other States and Tribal Courts. Deputies shall verify the validity of protection orders before enforcing them.
9. Violation of a Protection Order
A person commits the offense of “Violation of a Protection Order” if:

a. A District Court has issued a Protection Order, Temporary Protection Order, or any modification of such an order against a person, and that person violates that order;

b. The defendant received prior actual notice of the order or consent agreement, which may be by physical service of the order or notice other than service in hand, pursuant to Title 19-A M.R.S. § 4113(1); and

c. Deputies must recognize that a person who obtains a Protection from Abuse Order cannot violate the order regardless of any action taken by the person or the defendant; the order only constrains the defendant.

10. Enforcement of a Violation of a Protection Order
Pursuant to 19-A M.R.S. § 4114(5), in-custody arrest is mandatory for any criminal violation of a protective order.

O. PCSO Follow Up if Victim is Seriously Injured or Killed

1. The Sheriff shall cause to have this policy reviewed, and document the PCSO's compliance with policy, if a victim of domestic violence who resided in this PCSO's jurisdiction is killed or seriously injured during the time that any temporary or permanent Protection from Abuse order (PFA) was in effect or there had been past PCSO involvement related to interactions between the perpetrator and the victim. The review shall be conducted in consultation with a domestic violence advocate as defined in Title 16 M.R.S. § 53-B(1)(A) from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and a sworn law enforcement deputy designated or trained as a domestic violence investigator.
2.In any case where one or more victims are killed, a copy of all reports and/or documents generated and/or maintained by the PCSO shall be forwarded to the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel through the Maine Office of the Attorney General.

Sheriff Robert Young