Investigation and Prosecution

600.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines and requirements pertaining to the handling and disposition of criminal investigations.

600.2 POLICY
It is the policy of the Elk Grove Police Department to investigate crimes thoroughly and with due diligence, and to evaluate and prepare criminal cases for appropriate clearance or submission to a prosecutor.

600.3 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

600.3.1 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
An officer responsible for an initial investigation shall complete no less than the following:

(a) Make a preliminary determination of whether a crime has been committed by completing, at a minimum:
   1. An initial statement from any witnesses or complainants.
   2. A cursory examination for evidence.

(b) If information indicates a crime has occurred, the officer shall:
   1. Preserve the scene and any evidence as required to complete the initial and follow-up investigation.
   2. Determine if additional investigative resources (e.g., investigators or scene processing) are necessary and request assistance as required.
   3. If assistance is warranted, or if the incident is not routine, notify a supervisor or the Watch Commander.
   4. Make reasonable attempts to locate, identify and interview all available victims, complainants, witnesses and suspects.
   5. Collect any evidence.
   6. Take any appropriate law enforcement action.
   7. Complete and submit the appropriate reports and documentation.

(c) If the preliminary determination is that no crime occurred, determine what other action may be necessary, what other resources may be available, and advise the informant or complainant of this information.

600.3.2 NON-SWORN MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES
A non-sworn member assigned to any preliminary investigation is responsible for all investigative steps, except making any attempt to locate, contact or interview a suspect face-to-face or take
any enforcement action. Should an initial investigation indicate that those steps are required, the assistance of an officer shall be requested.

600.4 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION REQUIREMENTS
Suspects who are in custody and subjected to an interrogation shall be given the *Miranda* warning, unless an exception applies. Interview or interrogation of a juvenile shall be in accordance with the Temporary Custody of Juveniles Policy.

600.4.1 AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS
Any custodial interrogation of an individual who is suspected of having committed any violent felony offense should be recorded (audio or video with audio as available) in its entirety. Regardless of where the interrogation occurs, every reasonable effort should be made to secure functional recording equipment to accomplish such recordings.

Consideration should also be given to recording a custodial interrogation, or any investigative interview, for any other offense when it is reasonable to believe it would be appropriate and beneficial to the investigation and is otherwise allowed by law.

No recording of a custodial interrogation should be destroyed or altered without written authorization from the prosecuting attorney and the Detective Division supervisor. Copies of recorded interrogations or interviews may be made in the same or a different format as the original recording, provided the copies are true, accurate and complete and are made only for authorized and legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Recordings should not take the place of a thorough report and investigative interviews. Written statements from suspects should continue to be obtained when applicable.

600.4.2 MANDATORY RECORDING OF ADULTS
Any custodial interrogation of an adult who is suspected of having committed any murder shall be recorded in its entirety. The recording should be video with audio if reasonably feasible (Penal Code § 859.5).

This recording is not mandatory when (Penal Code § 859.5):

(a) Recording is not feasible because of exigent circumstances that are later documented in a report.

(b) The suspect refuses to have the interrogation recorded, including a refusal any time during the interrogation, and the refusal is documented in a report. If feasible, the refusal shall be electronically recorded.

(c) The custodial interrogation occurred in another state by law enforcement officers of that state, unless the interrogation was conducted with the intent to avoid the requirements of Penal Code § 859.5.

(d) The interrogation occurs when no member conducting the interrogation has a reason to believe that the individual may have committed murder. Continued custodial interrogation concerning that offense shall be electronically recorded if the interrogating member develops a reason to believe the individual committed murder.
(e) The interrogation would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or would jeopardize
the safety of an officer, the individual being interrogated or another individual. Such
circumstances shall be documented in a report.

(f) A recording device fails despite reasonable maintenance and the timely repair or
replacement is not feasible.

(g) The questions are part of a routine processing or booking, and are not an interrogation.

(h) The suspect is in custody for murder and the interrogation is unrelated to a murder.
    However, if any information concerning a murder is mentioned during the interrogation, the
    remainder of the interrogation shall be recorded.

The Department shall maintain an original or an exact copy of the recording until a conviction
relating to the interrogation is final and all appeals are exhausted or prosecution is barred by law
(Penal Code § 859.5).

600.5 DISCONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATIONS
The investigation of a criminal case or efforts to seek prosecution should only be discontinued if
one of the following applies:

(a) All reasonable investigative efforts have been exhausted, no reasonable belief that the
person who committed the crime can be identified, and the incident has been documented
appropriately.

(b) The perpetrator of a misdemeanor has been identified and a warning is the most appropriate
disposition.
   1. In these cases, the investigator shall document that the person was warned and why
      prosecution was not sought.
   2. Warnings shall not be given for felony offenses or other offenses identified in this
      policy or by law that require an arrest or submission of a case to a prosecutor.

(c) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor but no charges have been
filed. Further investigation is not reasonable nor has the prosecutor requested further
investigation.

(d) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor, charges have been filed, and
further investigation is not reasonable, warranted or requested, and there is no need to take
the suspect into custody.

(e) Suspects have been arrested, there are no other suspects, and further investigation is either
not warranted or requested.

(f) Investigation has proven that a crime was not committed (see the Sexual Assault
Investigations Policy for special considerations in these cases).

The Domestic Violence, Child Abuse Sexual Assault Investigations and Adult Abuse policies may
also require an arrest or submittal of a case to a prosecutor.
600.6 COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE
The collection, preservation, transportation and storage of computers, cell phones and other
digital devices may require specialized handling to preserve the value of the related evidence. If
it is anticipated that computers or similar equipment will be seized, officers should request that
computer forensic examiners assist with seizing computers and related evidence. If a forensic
examiner is unavailable, officers should take reasonable steps to prepare for such seizure and
use the resources that are available.

600.7 INVESTIGATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SOURCES
Use of social media and any other Internet source to access information for the purpose of criminal
investigation shall comply with applicable laws and policies regarding privacy, civil rights and
civil liberties. Information gathered via the Internet should only be accessed by members while
on-duty and for purposes related to the mission of this department. If a member encounters
information relevant to a criminal investigation while off-duty or while using his/her own equipment,
the member should note the dates, times and locations of the information and report the discovery
to his/her supervisor as soon as practicable. The member, or others who have been assigned to
do so, should attempt to replicate the finding when on-duty and using department equipment.

Information obtained via the Internet should not be archived or stored in any manner other than
department-established record keeping systems (see the Records Maintenance and Release and
the Criminal Organizations policies).

600.7.1 ACCESS RESTRICTIONS
Information that can be accessed from any department computer, without the need of an account,
password, email address, alias or other identifier (unrestricted websites), may be accessed and
used for legitimate investigative purposes without supervisory approval.

Accessing information from any Internet source that requires the use or creation of an account,
password, email address, alias or other identifier, or the use of nongovernment IP addresses,
requires supervisor approval prior to access. The supervisor will review the justification for
accessing the information and consult with legal counsel as necessary to identify any policy or
legal restrictions. Any such access and the supervisor approval shall be documented in the related
investigative report.

Accessing information that requires the use of a third party’s account or online identifier requires
supervisor approval and the consent of the third party. The consent must be voluntary and shall
be documented in the related investigative report.

Information gathered from any Internet source should be evaluated for its validity, authenticity,
accuracy and reliability. Corroborative evidence should be sought and documented in the related
investigative report.
Any information collected in furtherance of an investigation through an Internet source should be documented in the related report. Documentation should include the source of information and the dates and times that the information was gathered.

600.7.2 INTERCEPTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
Intercepting social media communications in real time may be subject to federal and state wiretap laws. Officers should seek legal counsel before any such interception.

600.8 CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTION TECHNOLOGY
The Investigation Division Commander is responsible for ensuring the following for cellular communications interception technology operations (Government Code § 53166):

(a) Security procedures are developed to protect information gathered through the use of the technology.

(b) A usage and privacy policy is developed that includes:

1. The purposes for which using cellular communications interception technology and collecting information is authorized.

2. Identification by job title or other designation of employees who are authorized to use or access information collected through the use of cellular communications interception technology.

3. Training requirements necessary for those authorized employees.

4. A description of how the Department will monitor the use of its cellular communications interception technology to ensure the accuracy of the information collected and compliance with all applicable laws.

5. Process and time period system audits.

6. Identification of the existence of any memorandum of understanding or other agreement with any other local agency or other party for the shared use of cellular communications interception technology or the sharing of information collected through its use, including the identity of signatory parties.

7. The purpose of, process for and restrictions on the sharing of information gathered through the use of cellular communications interception technology with other local agencies and persons.

8. The length of time information gathered through the use of cellular communications interception technology will be retained, and the process the local agency will utilize to determine if and when to destroy retained information.

Members shall only use approved devices and usage shall be in compliance with department security procedures, the department’s usage and privacy procedures and all applicable laws.

600.9 MODIFICATION OF CHARGES FILED
Members are not authorized to recommend to the prosecutor or to any other official of the court that charges on a pending case be amended or dismissed without the authorization of a Division
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Commander or the Chief of Police. Any authorized request to modify the charges or to recommend dismissal of charges shall be made to the prosecutor.