

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

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Chief of Police: Jason Soto /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief: Thomas Robinson /s/		
General Order No: P-130-05	Issued: January 4, 2006	Revised: Sept 24 th , 2020
General Order Title: CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES		

I. POLICY

The Reno Police Department is frequently called upon to evaluate child custody disputes, even though they typically do not involve any criminal conduct. When a child custody dispute does involve criminal conduct, every option will be evaluated to make an arrest when appropriate and ensure the safety of the child(ren) involved. When it has been determined that no criminal conduct has occurred, the parents/guardians will be referred to the appropriate court for resolution.

In order to make an appropriate determination about child custody, officers will follow the most current court ordered child custody agreement. Additionally, and pursuant to NRS 125A, out of state court orders are given full faith and credit in the State of Nevada and valid orders will be carried out by officers if directed by the court in the order.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Dispatch Responsibilities – upon receiving a call about a child custody dispute, dispatchers shall:

1. Attempt to determine whether a crime has been committed. If no crime is alleged, refer the involved parties to the court with jurisdiction.
2. If no crime has been committed, but a disturbance is occurring or may occur, advise the reporting party that officers will be sent to ensure that peace is preserved. If a call is entered, the dispatcher shall:
 - a. Advise the reporting party to have all of their court documents in their possession and to be prepared to allow the officer to review them.
 - b. Notify an on-duty sergeant of the call.

B. Officers' Responsibilities – whenever dispatched to a child custody dispute, officers shall:

1. Determine if the child's (children's) health or welfare is in jeopardy. If the welfare of the child is a concern, officers should consult with Washoe County Child Protective Services.
2. Determine if any crimes have been committed or are being alleged, and handle according to applicable laws and departmental policies.
3. Review, verify validity and enforce the most current court order concerning the involved parties and determine if a judge explicitly authorized and/or directed law enforcement to

enforce the court order pursuant to NRS 125A and ensure only the level of enforcement authorized and/or directed is taken.

4. Document actions taken in any report and include copies of any documents relied on.

C. Supervisor Responsibilities – when notified of a child custody dispute, the sergeant shall:

1. Review the call for service;
2. Obtain further information from the reporting party if necessary, and;
3. Evaluate the need to have officers respond. If response is necessary, the supervisor shall further:
 - a. Confirm the most current court order is valid and explicitly directs law enforcement to act;
 - b. Ensure the court order's directions are complied with by the involved parties and the officers evaluating the dispute;
 - c. Consult with the on-call deputy city attorney and/or the on-call deputy district attorney when unsure of what actions to take.