POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WOMAN ABUSE PROTOCOL

Revised November 1, 2010

Justice and Public Safety

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Police Response to Domestic Disputes Protocol

The attached protocol concerning police response to domestic disputes is approved by the undersigned and comes into effect on November 1, 2010.

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1. GENERAL

Many assaults take place in the home with a woman or child being the victim. Although such assaults occur in a variety of circumstances, there are a few characteristics that point out the seriousness of the offence and should influence the police response:

1.1 For the purposes of this Protocol, the meaning of victims of domestic violence shall be the same as those referred in Section 1 (q) of the Victims of Family Violence Act (VFVA).

Section 1"(q)"Victim" means

- (i) a person who has resided with or who is residing with the respondent (alleged offender) in a family relationship, or
- (ii) a person who, with the respondent (alleged offender), is a parent of one or more children, regardless of marital status or whether the victim and respondent have lived together at any time

who has been subjected to family violence by the respondent."

- 1.2 Intervening in a domestic crisis is always a potentially dangerous assignment for the police officer. Those involved may resent the presence of an officer and become even more violent and aggressive.
- 1.3 To effectively perform his/her duties, the officer must assess the emergency conditions and be able to quickly determine the possibility of violence occurring. At the same time, it must be demonstrated to the conflicting parties that he/she has a sincere interest in helping them. It is the responsibility of that police officer to determine an intervention strategy to bring the crisis to a resolution within a reasonable period of time.

The *VFVA* has advanced the abilities of officers to resolve such domestic violence situations. With the training received by all personnel, officers now have the ability to utilize specialized provisions of the Act to intervene and issue Emergency Protection Orders, as referenced in Section 4 of the *VFVA*.

1.4 The investigation of domestic crisis is accompanied by highly emotional and often irrational behavior, which may be further augmented by the consumption of alcohol/drugs/other substances. What this means to the officer is that the victim can be in real danger and the suspect typically is not in a condition to accept a reasonable resolution of the situation. In some situations, where only one person is intoxicated, he/she may become the target of abuse.

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- 1.5 If the offender is intoxicated and has already acted violently he/she may be a threat not to be underestimated. This threat applies especially to the victim, but also to the police officer(s). Often both parties have been drinking, which increases the likelihood of either or both becoming violent towards the police. It is important to note that extreme violence can occur without the presence of alcohol; therefore, the same risk is to be considered when investigating a dispute when the parties involved have not been drinking.
- 1.6 The onus is on the police and Crown, not on the victim, to initiate the criminal process. In all cases where a charge is warranted on the evidence, the police will lay a charge. At this point police mediation for reconciliation of the parties is not appropriate. In addition, officers will make it clear to the victim that the laying of charges is the responsibility of the police.

2. OBJECTIVES

While many areas will be discussed and covered in this Protocol, the following objectives are to be kept in mind:

- (a) Ensure the safety and security of the victims, officers and others who may be present,
- (b) Stabilize the situation,
- (c) Apprehend and charge any alleged offender,
- (d) Prevent a breach of the peace,
- (e) Attempt to deter any future incidents of domestic violence, (**Emergency Protection Order**, Counseling Referrals etc.)
- (f) Inform all parties of their legal rights,
- (g) Promote and foster good public relations,
- (h) Notify the Director of Child Protection (Child and Family Services) if there are children in the relationship, whether they are present or not, using "Police Referral to Director of Child Protection" form (Appendix A)

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3. GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been developed to assist police agencies in responding to complaints of domestic violence.

3.1 The Dispatcher

The dispatcher receiving the initial call can contribute significantly to the safety of the victim and the police officer. He/she has an opportunity to obtain, from the caller, valuable information concerning the nature of the assault and the emotional state of the parties involved. Failure to obtain such information makes the responding officers' task more difficult and more dangerous. By questioning the caller, the dispatcher should attempt to determine:

- (a) nature of incident and emotional state of parties involved;
- (b) determine whether there are injuries and what the state of injuries may be;
- (c) what type of medical assistance may be needed;
- (d) whether or not any of the parties are armed;
- (e) what kind of weapon(s) may be involved/available;
- (f) dispatcher should check to determine previously reported incidents involving the same parties, the probable danger involved and relay this information to responding unit(s);
- (g) by listening to the background noises, as well as the complainant's description of the incident, the dispatcher can make further determinations about the extent of the danger. Threats, screams, noises of glasses breaking etc. indicate the seriousness of the incident. In some cases the dispatcher may keep the caller on the phone or urge them to leave the premises and meet responding officers outside.

3.2 Police Officer Pre-Entry Procedures

To assess the extent of the danger, officers should stop at the scene and listen to determine if the disturbance is in progress and to pinpoint its location. Persons encountered in the immediate vicinity should be briefly questioned about the incident and the parties involved.

(a) The officers should always try to view the inside of the residence before announcing their presence, if at all possible.

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- (b) While one officer knocks at the door, another, if possible, should position himself/herself near a window where he/she can observe the person who answers the door.
- (c) The officer at the door should stand to the side to avoid gunfire or other attack. He/she should be prepared for any circumstances when the door is opened since he/she is often met with hostility or violence.
- (d) When conditions permit, the officer should introduce himself or herself, give an explanation of the police presence and request entry into the home. If entry is refused, the officer should calmly explain that they understand the person's feeling, but they must ensure there is not serious trouble inside.

3.3 Police Officer Procedures - If Entry Is Refused

The emergent nature of the complaint and the refusal of the person to allow the officers into the home may require that a forced entry be made.

The officers may lawfully force entry into the home where they believe on reasonable grounds that it is in the public interest, having regard to all the circumstances including the need to prevent the continuation or repetition of the offence or the commission of another offence. Such circumstances include:

- (a) information supplied in the call to police;
- (b) cries for help;
- (c) unusual noises;
- (d) visible weapons;
- (e) obvious signs that a struggle has occurred;
- (f) an eye witness account that a crime has occurred and that the victim is still in the home.
- (g) 911 Hang Up Calls Supreme Court of Canada (S.C.C.) Decision R. V Goodow

3.4 Police Officer Procedures - Following Entry

Nothing positive, not even rendering first aid, can be achieved until the officers have the emergent situation under control.

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- (a) The officers should immediately locate all parties, determine whether they are armed, and determine the extent of their injuries, if any.
- (b) The parties should be separated so that they are out of normal hearing range of each other but within the continuous viewing range of the officers.
- (c) The kitchen area should be avoided because of the many potential weapons located in this area of the home.
- (d) For their protection, children or others not directly involved should be separated from the parties and questioned later.

4. INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The officers have an obligation to conduct a thorough investigation to determine what has happened. Therefore, it is appropriate for the officers to encourage initial comments by simply asking, "what happened?" Whether statements are verbal, written or taped, efforts should be made to establish any past history.
 - (a) In these incidents, a party may also make spontaneous statements to convince the officer(s) that he or she is blameless.
 - (b) Spontaneous statements are those volunteered prior to police questioning and as such are admissible evidence. However, when a person becomes the target of direct questioning or begins to incriminate him/her, he/she should be stopped and given the Police Caution and Charter notice, circumstances permitting.
 - (c) Officers should also keep in mind the potential for use of KBG statements, which may deal with a potential recanting by witnesses at a later date.
- 4.2 The investigator must obtain statements from all persons involved (suspect, victim, witness(es)). If it is not feasible to do so at the time, they are to be obtained as soon as possible thereafter.
 - (a) In obtaining statements from victim/witness(es), efforts should be made to determine any past history. Questions should be directed in such a way as to inquire about past incidents or confirm officer's knowledge of past incidents, as victims will often downplay or forget past incidents.

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- (b) Statement verification should also be considered as a means to corroborate statements of victim(s)/witness(es) or as a means to challenge negative statements by suspects.
- 4.3 Officers are also to make note as to whether there are children (18 years of age or younger) within the relationship. If there are such children in the relationship, the "Police Referral to Director of Child Protection" form (Appendix A) is to be completed and faxed to Child & Family Services at the number indicated on the form. This reporting is mandatory under the Child Protection Act.
- 4.4 Warned statements of accused persons should be obtained whenever possible, including negative statements. The investigator should make notes of the time, place, date and contents of the conversation, particularly if no written statement is given. Notes should also indicate the fact that the Caution and Charter of Rights were given and understood. Where facilities are available, video and audio taped interviews should be considered. Should interviews be taped, a written format should still be taken.

All statements should be treated as other physical evidence, whether or not they are taped or written.

Where there are no reasonable grounds to lay a charge, but the officer(s) believe that the victim's safety may be at risk, the officer(s) will consider the availability of other responses including Emergency Protection Orders under the *VFVA* and/or orders under section 810 of the *Criminal Code*.

5. VICTIM PROTECTION/REFERRALS

Incidents of domestic violence have far reaching effects on all victims.

Victim Services is available to assist with addressing the needs of victims. An excellent working relationship exists between police services and Victim Services. Referrals will be dictated by each police service's policy and guidelines.

In addition to the remedies available through the Criminal Code, additional protection remedies are also available in the form of protection or assistance orders, available through the *VFVA*.

Where appropriate and with the consent of the victim, police will apply for an Emergency Protection Order under the *VFVA*, whether proceedings under the *Criminal Code* are initiated or not.

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5.1 Emergency Protection Orders

Section 4 of the *VFVA* provides for the application of an Emergency Protection Order (EPO);

Section "4.(1) A justice of the peace, on the application of any person pursuant to subsection (6), in the prescribed form and without notice to any other person, may make an emergency protection order if he or she determines

- (a) family violence has occurred and;
- (b) the seriousness or urgency of the circumstances merits the making of an order"

Section 4(2) outlines the factors the Justice is to consider in determining whether an order will be issued.

Section 4(3) outlines the provisions which the Justice may have contained within the order.

Any EPO issued will be subject to subsequent review and, in any event, shall only remain in effect for a period up to 90 days.

5.2 Emergency Protection Order Follow-Up

- (a) Advise the victim of Emergency Protection Order
- (b) Confirm the need for the application
- (c) Contact Justice of the Peace (JP) telephone: 1-888-557-6041
- (d) Complete application form
- (e) Contact made with JP
- (f) Outline situation to JP
- (g) Follow directions of the JP
- (h) Give victim a copy of the order
- (i) Serve the respondent
- (i) Have information entered on CPIC immediately

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5.3 Victim Assistance Order

Section 7 VFVA also makes provisions for an application to be made before a Judge, for a Victim Assistance Order (VOA). Victim Services can assist victims to seek legal assistance to apply for a VOA. After consideration, the Judge may issue a VAO.

Once satisfied that family violence has occurred, the Judge may issue the order with provision specified in section 4 (3) *VFVA*. The application must be responded to within 10 days of receipt.

5.4 Offences

In addition to the orders and remedies available through the VFVA, officers should also be aware of offence and arrest sections 16 and 17 of the Act:

Section 16:

Any person who

- (a) fails to comply with the provisions of an emergency protection order or a victim assistance order;
- (b) falsely and maliciously makes an application under this Act;
- (c) obstructs any person who is performing any function authorized by an emergency protection order or victim assistance order;
- (d) publishes any information in contravention of an emergency protection order or victim assistance order,

is guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction is liable in the case of a first offence, to a fine of not more than \$5,000. or to imprisonment for a term of not more than three months, or to both, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine of not more than \$10,000. or to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years, or to both. 1996, c.47, s.16; 1998,c11,s.10.

Section 17:

A peace officer may arrest without warrant a person the peace officer believes on reasonable and probable grounds to have contravened any terms of an order made pursuant to this Act. 1996, c.47, s.17; 1998,c11,s.11.

6. INJURIES

6.1 The absence of external visible injury does not mean that no assault occurred. Assault victims often sustain internal or external injuries, which are not apparent or do not become apparent for a period of several hours. Investigators should always inquire of the victim whether they have

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sustained any injury and note their response, as well as the investigators own personal observations. Follow up should be done within 2 days of the complaint in order to view any marks that may have formed. Photos should be taken initially and 2 days later.

Keep in mind domestic assault is often a means of control over the victim. Often, victims will have injuries to extremities, which are not necessarily obvious at first glance. Victims should be encouraged to move about in an effort to determine whether mobility of feet, legs, etc., have been affected.

In all instances of visible injuries, arrangements should be made to photograph the injuries.

6.2 Should the victim require medical treatment, the officers shall ensure he/she is taken to a medical facility immediately. If the officer is unable to transport the victim for treatment, the officer shall ensure transportation by some other means (ambulance, neighbour, or relative). If the victim receives treatment, ensure that the consent to release medical information is completed in the first instance unless injuries are such that it cannot be completed at that time.

Should the victim refuse medical treatment for obvious injury or injury(ies), the police should ensure the immediate safety of the victim. In these instances, an Emergency Protection Order may be utilized. However, should the order not be granted, relocate the victim to a safe environment such as Transition House or a friend's home.

7. ARREST

Should evidence establish an offence has been committed or it appears the offence will continue, the police officer must now consider the provisions of the *Criminal Code* concerning the powers of arrest. Where the circumstances warrant, the offender is to be arrested and removed from the premises.

In exercising his/her discretion whether or not to arrest, the officer will consider whether there are reasonable grounds to believe an indictable offence has been committed or is about to be committed. In determining whether it is in the public interest to detain or release an offender, the officer should consider the following factors:

- (a) The seriousness of the offence including injuries to the victim;
- (b) Where firearms or other offensive weapons are threatened or used in the commission of the offence, the investigator is to exercise the search and seizure powers as prescribed by sections 117.02 or 111 CC as applicable, followed by judicial hearing under Section 117.05 CC, where necessary.

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NOTE: This action must be initiated within thirty (30) days after seizure.

- 7.1 In preparing for the judicial review under Section 117.05, the following should be highlighted for the Crown/Court:
 - (c) Past history of violence;
 - (d) Degree of intoxication or apparent substance abuse by the parties;
 - (e) Attitude of offender including threats of further violence;
 - (f) Any other factors that the investigator from his observations at the scene believes are important in the exercise of his/her discretion;
- When an arrest has been made, the police must now ensure the rights of the offender are protected. Whether the accused is released by police or the court, a court date must be set within a reasonable time limit. The offender's release by the police at the time of arrest may be made by one of the following methods:
 - (a) Appearance notice
 - (b) Promise to appear Form 11.1 Peace Officer Undertaking
 - (c) Recognizance; or
 - (d) The offender could be summonsed by the Court at a later date.

Although these options are open to the investigator, it is highly recommended that release be made by way of a recognizance to provide for conditions to be put in place. Prior to release, ensure that you have reviewed the provisions of 515 (10) CC.

- 7.3 If the police believe an offence has been committed, they must prepare a complete "Court Information Package" (Appendix B) containing all statements, photos (if available), certificates, medical reports and any other information that may be of benefit in the determination of charges. Please refer to the "Domestic Violence Police Investigation Checklist" (Appendix C).
- 7.4 Where circumstances warrant, the investigator shall bring to the attention of the Crown, the need to request an order of prohibition from the Court

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with regards to Sections 111(1), 117.05, 515(4.1) or 810(3.1) as applicable.

8. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

Shift supervisors shall review domestic dispute occurrence reports before the end of shift. In addition, a follow up review will be completed. Where necessary, a police officer should be reminded of the charging policy. This review should also ensure that:

- The investigation is thorough
- Documentation is complete including "Domestic Violence Police Investigation Checklist" form (Appendix C)
- Where appropriate, that the "Police Referral to the Director of Child Protection" form (Appendix A) is completed and forwarded.

Where appropriate an EPO has been considered and/or sought.

9. STATISTICS

To assist in tracking situations of domestic violence, all such incidents will receive additional line scoring through the PROS system as follows:

Violence in a Relationship
Emergency Protection Order Application
Child & Family Referral

10. VICTIM SERVICES

The Victim Services Program is established and administered through the *Victims of Crime Act*. Victim Services assists victims of crime throughout their involvement in the criminal justice system. Services include:

- information about the status of your case and the criminal justice system,
- short-term counseling and emotional support referrals,
- court preparation,
- help in preparing a victim impact statement,

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- assistance under the Victims of Family Violence Act,
- financial information, and
- coordination of services.

Queens and Kings Counties:

1 Harbourside Access Road

Charlottetown, PEI

902-368-4582

Prince County:

Suite 19, 2nd Floor

263 Harbour Drive

Summerside, PE

902-888-8218

Police Services will ensure Victim Services are available through a working agreement established with the Province of Prince Edward Island. Each officer shall be furnished with a Victim Services "Blue Card" which outlines the following:

- Victim Impact Statement rights notice
- Information on Victim Services
- Step process as it relates to EPOs

11. CROWN PROSECUTOR

It is essential that liaison be maintained with the Crown Prosecutor, particularly in cases where serious violence is involved and the accused has been detained in order to prevent the continuation or repetition of the offence. Consideration may be given to requesting a "show cause" hearing to enable the court to make an informed decision on the issue of the detention or release of the accused. Also, the Crown Prosecutor will play an important role on those occasions where the victim wishes to discontinue proceedings following a "not guilty" plea by the accused.

Where matters will be considered for court, the Crown will apply a dual level of testing:

- 1. Reasonable expectation of a successful prosecution.
- 2. In the public interest.

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12. CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Effective communication must exist between Child and Family Services, the Police and the Crown Prosecutor. Situations may arise where Child and Family Services will become involved. As such a liaison will be maintained with Child and Family Services to ensure relevant information is shared, such as:

Child & Family Referrals – Referrals are to be made in every instance where a child or children are in the relationship, whether present or not. Subject to the degree of the violence an on call worker shall be notified at the time of the incident, rather than waiting to forward information by fax form, referred to in section 4.3.

13. AGENCY CONTACTS

Personnel and contact numbers should be maintained by all police services.

14. ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION ORDERS

The term "protection order" is a generic term, which may refer to several types of Court Orders. Generally, an order referred to as a "recognizance, undertaking or peace bond is issued by the criminal courts, while a "restraining order" is issued by the civil or family courts.

A protection order contains a condition that affords safety and security to a specified (named) person or persons. An order must contain a 'no contact', 'limited contact', or other protective condition to be considered a protection order.

An order **is not** a protection order if it does not name an individual and if the conditions only relate to protection of property, assets or the community generally.

14.1 The following are commonly used Protection Orders:

(a) A Recognizance or Undertaking – issued by a Justice when an accused is released with conditions to have no contact or communications with the victim, and/or a condition not to attend at the victim's residence or workplace. This order is generally in place during the period the charge is outstanding. Section 145(3) *Criminal Code (CC)* forms the offence section for a breach of the order whether or not it is signed by the accused.

While the above is with regard to a Recognizance or Undertaking issued by a Justice, Section 498 *CC*, also provides for the release upon conditions by an officer in charge upon issuing of a Form 11.1. This area is seldom used as

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the conditions generally only apply until the date of arraignment, while in matters issued by a Justice they may remain in effect until dealt with by law.

- (b) Section 810 or 810.1 Recognizance Generally referred to as a "Peace Bond", which has been signed by a defendant as a result of an application filed by the victim based on fear. Again such orders will stipulate a condition to have no contact or communication with the victim and/or a condition not to attend the victim's residence or workplace. Such orders are in place for the term indicated within the order and a breach of such an order is referenced at Section 811 CC.
- (c) <u>Probation Orders and Conditional Sentence Orders</u> Issued at sentencing, a Judge may add probation conditions which direct the accused to have no contact or communication with the victim and additional conditions not to attend the victim's residence or workplace. Such orders are in place for the term prescribed and a breach of such an order is referenced at Section 733 *CC*.
- 14.2 Where there are reasonable grounds to believe a breach of a "Protection Order" has occurred, police officers shall investigate and charge the suspect immediately or as soon as reasonably possible.

NOTE: A photocopy of a validly appearing "Protection Order", coupled with the victim's description of the conduct which breaches the order shall constitute reasonable grounds. Victims and persons subject to the order shall be questioned as to whether they are aware of any subsequent Orders issued by the Court. In some instances it may be necessary to contact other sources to seek additional clarification.

- (a) Where a breach has occurred and the accused is still present, he/she may display a willingness to leave the premises with their personal assurance of no further contact. In such instances, the willingness or assurance is to be considered irrelevant with regard to charges.
- (b) Where a victim is not in possession of a copy of the Order, or an order cannot be verified through other electronic means, police officers(s) shall contact the Clerk of the Court or victims' legal counsel (if known) in order to obtain a copy of the order. Once grounds have been established, proceed as soon as possible with the charging process.

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(c) It is imperative that a copy of the Order be obtained and attached to the file. Exact wording of the Order is required prior to the laying of any information.

15. BREACH OF NON-COMMUNICATION ORDERS

- In many instances where *Criminal Code* Orders contain references to non-communication, breaches often occur via phone and other electronic means rather than personal contact. Where a non-communication reference is made, a breach of the Order still exists when the contact is made. In such instances a victim will generally file a complaint with the local police agency. Unfortunately, in many instances the complainant is advised the local agency has no jurisdiction in the matter as the call originated from another area. Members are advised this is not correct, as an offence committed in one jurisdiction, which is received in another jurisdiction, is deemed to have been committed in both jurisdictions. Where the call originates within the confines of this Province but involves an Order issued by a Court outside PEI, the Order should be confirmed and Crown Counsel consulted prior to any breach charge being considered.
- (b) Where a complaint is received where the victim resides in one police service jurisdiction and the subject of the complaint or accused resides in another, for greater certainty, the police service responding to the victim shall initiate the investigation of the complaint.

Where the call has originated from out of Province, member(s) should record the complaint, advising that it would be unlikely that a charge would result from this jurisdiction. The information should be passed on to the agency where the call originated, for their information and attention, should they choose to action the complaint.

16. OFFENCES

While not limited, the charges, which may be considered in instances of Domestic Violence, may be one or more of the following:

- (a) Physical Assault (pushing, shoving, hitting, punching, slapping, kicking) Sections 265-269 CC
- (b) Sexual Assault Section 271 273 CC
- (c) Uttering Threats Section 264.1 CC
- (d) Mischief Section 430 CC

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- (e) Intimidation Section 423 CC
- (f) Forcible Confinement Section 279 CC
- (g) Possession of a Weapon Section 87 CC
- (h) Breach of any Court Order, including restraining orders, probation orders etc.
- (i) Criminal Harassment 264 (1) CC

17. RESPONSE TO NON-CRIMINAL DOMESTIC DISPUTES

In situations where there is no suspicion of domestic violence, or where through investigation, it appears that the dispute is non-criminal in nature or does not violate the provisions of the *Victims of Family Violence Act*, members shall:

- (a) Refer parties to the appropriate helping agencies for individual or family counseling.
- (b) Where circumstances are such that the provisions of the *CC* do not apply, and an EPO is not obtainable, advise parties who are or have been married or have been in a common law relationship that they may be eligible for a restraining order issued through Family Court. Parties should be advised to contact legal counsel in regards to such orders.
- (c) Referrals to individual legal counsel shall not be done. Where parties may require counsel to obtain an order or legal separation information etc. they are to be referred to telephone listings or lawyer referral service through Community Legal Information Association. (CLIA) 1-800-240-9798.

If the dispute centers on the failure of one party to pay maintenance in accordance with an existing Order or Separation Agreement, parties are to be referred to Maintenance Enforcement personnel at the Family Law Centre.

18. PROPERTY – OWNERSHIP/TITLE

Property ownership is a matter which is generally established in Civil Law. Therefore, when disputes arise with respect to property, it is advisable to have these resolved by a Civil Court. Members involved in such calls should calmly and patiently explain our role in such situations

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as being simply a presence to ensure there is no breach of the peace and to act in an advisory capacity.

Where the parties involved are rational and can calmly discuss the matter in the presence of officer(s), alternate measures may be discussed. In such situations, officer(s) may be able to assist in working out some form of arrangement with the parties as an interim measure, or referrals to outside mediation may be suggested.

Where there is an obvious question as to ownership, parties can resolve the issue through a civil process.

19. CLAIMING PROPERTY

In domestic situations, members will often be called upon to assist in claiming personal property to which parties have a lawful right. The police role in such situations is to ensure there are no breaches of the peace.

When an assistance request is made, officer(s) shall assist. However, such assistance will be for the retrieval of personal property items only and will be carried out in accordance with the following:

- (a) Personal property shall mean clothing, toiletries, jewelry, toys (in the case of children)
- (b) An assistance report will be filed with regard to the request.
- (c) If a Court Order is in place, a copy shall be obtained and added to the file.
- (d) Police personnel shall not:
 - (i) Provide transportation to and from the address in question. Complainant is to be met at the address where they will claim the property.
 - (ii) Assist in removing the property.
 - (iii) Express any opinions in favor of either party involved.
- (e) Officer(s) shall attend and explain to all parties the reason for the police presence. Where questions arise over real property issues, parties are to be referred to Civil Courts.

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(f) Where the other party refuses to surrender property, no other action can be taken without a Court Order, other than discussing the matter in an effort to resolve it

20. REMOVAL OF PROPERTY BY SPOUSE/COMMON-LAW

- (a) Where a mutual agreement between parties cannot or is not likely to be reached, with the departing spouse insistent on removing an item or the other insistent on retaining same, the conditions specified in Section 38 CC may apply:
 - "38.(1) Every one who is in peaceable possession of moveable property, and every one lawfully assisting him, is justified:
 - (a) in preventing a trespasser from taking it, or
 - (b) in taking from a trespasser who has taken it, if he does not strike or cause harm to the trespasser.
 - (2) Where a person who is in peaceable possession of moveable property lays hands upon it, a trespasser who persists in attempting to keep it or take it from him or from any one lawfully assisting him shall be deemed to commit an assault without justification or provocation."
- (b) Peaceable Possession

The person who has "peaceable possession" would usually be the spouse or person having possession of the item(s) since the separation, and who is attempting to retain the item(s).

(c) Trespasser

Where the spouse is attempting to remove an item from the other and is, in fact, separated and maintaining a separate residence, they would, in fact, be a "trespasser" for the purposes of this section.

Logic dictates that where in the first instance, a person enters a premises lawfully, upon invitation or other like concession for the purpose of resuming possession of their moveable property, and subsequently abuses their authority, and, over the objection of the other party, begins to remove item(s), they become, in law at section 38 *CC*, a trespasser.

Where section 38 CC applies, the trespassing spouse should be told that should they persist in attempting to remove the item(s) of contested property, they could, by their actions, be deemed to have committed an assault and be subject to charge under section 265(1) CC.

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21. DISPUTES CONCERNING CUSTODY/ACCESS ISSUES

In cases where police attend a call involving a domestic dispute about the custody of or access to children, in addition to dealing with any suspicion regarding domestic violence by providing the initial response as per Section 3, officers(s) shall also be mindful of the following:

- (a) Where a Family Court Order has established custody to one parent, with or without access to the other parent, any complaint received which refers to the abduction or attempted abduction of a child, by the non-custodial parent, shall be the subject of an immediate investigation with a view to prosecution under the provisions of section 282 CC, Abduction in Contravention of Custody Order.
- (b) Where a Family Court Order gives custody to one parent with access at times and under certain conditions set by the Court, any unreasonable breach of the access provisions by the non-custodial parent shall be the subject of an investigation. A reasonable breach of access provisions may be the belief on the part of the custodial parent that the child is in fact in need of protection. Where a child is not returned within three hours of the time specified within the Order or that expressly agreed upon by the parents, an investigation will be commenced with a view to prosecution under section 282 *CC*, Abduction in Contravention of Custody Order. However, where police have received information, which reasonably leads to the inference that the child is being abducted, and/or removed from the jurisdiction, immediate investigation shall commence.
- (c) If a parent breaches an order made by Family Court, in relation to not returning a child on time, refer both parties back to Family Court to have the matter rectified. If this is not an option, consider pursuing a charge under section 127 *CC*.
- (d) Where no Family Court Order is in existence and one parent has taken or detained the child from the other parent, who has lawful care and possession of the child, any complaint of abduction or attempted abduction shall be the subject of an investigation, with a view of prosecution under section 283 CC, Abduction Where No Custody Order.

The *CC* provides that where no Order is in place, no proceedings may commence without the approval of the Attorney General. In such instances the Crown's office shall immediately be contacted to determine whether such proceedings shall be commenced.

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(f) Ensure all matters pertaining to custody and access are referred to the Director of Child Protection using the "Police Referral to Director of Child Protection" form (Appendix A).

22. ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL COURT ORDERS

Occasionally police personnel may be called upon to aid in ensuring compliance with Civil Court Orders. When such requests are made the following shall be borne in mind by police officers:

- (a) Police officers have no legal authority to enforce the provisions of a Civil Court Order (Judgments, Domestic Access, Child Custody, Restraining Order) unless the Order contains specific provision to that effect. Where no express direction is made to Police in the Order, there is no obligation to aid in its enforcement or service. In such instances, the parties involved are expected to personally exercise their rights without police intervention. However, police officers shall attend to prevent a Breach of the Peace, and attempt to have the parties rationally discuss and resolve the problem.
- (b) Where a Civil Court Order makes mandatory reference to police in such terms as "shall" or "must" there is a legal duty to carry out the functions as stipulated and all reasonable efforts must be made to comply. Failure to do any less may be construed as Contempt of Court. When carrying out such duties, unless the Order expressly authorizes the police to forcibly enter a premises, such authority does not exist.
- (c) Before any action is taken in regards to a Civil Court Order, the Order is to be produced for inspection by police personnel to determine the validity by ensuring:
 - (i) the Order has been issued by a Court in the Province of Prince Edward Island:
 - (ii) the date of the Order has not expired;
 - (iii) the Order appears valid on its face and from the information available is the most recent Order issued by the Court;
 - (iv) there are specified provisions within the Order directing the police functions; and
 - (v) the spouse who must comply with the Order has been served a copy.

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(d) If a parent breaches an order made by Family Court, in relation to not returning a child on time, refer both parties back to Family Court to have the matter rectified. If this is not an option, consider pursuing a charge under section 127 *CC*.

23. CRIMINAL HARASSMENT (ANTI-STALKING LEGISLATION)

- 23.1 The criminal behavior referred to as "stalking" is not a new form of activity. Special attention should be paid to such incidents given the violent and sometimes tragic consequences which can arise if timely and appropriate attention is not made.
 - a) Section 264(1) CC defines this behaviour as Criminal Harassment:

"No person shall, without lawful authority and knowing that another person is harassed or recklessly as to whether the other person is harassed, engage in conduct referred to in Subsection (2) that causes that other person reasonably, in all the circumstances to fear for their safety or the safety of anyone known to them."

b) Prohibited conduct under section 264(1) CC is defined as:

"repeatedly following from place to place, the other person or anyone known to them

repeatedly communicating with, either directly or indirectly, the other person or anyone known to them;

besetting or watching the dwelling house, or place where the other person, or anyone known to them, resides, works, carries on business or happens to be;

engaging in threatening conduct directed at the other person or any member of their family."

c) Criminal harassment is unwanted attention directed towards another that often manifests into obsessive efforts to intimidate and control. Once the victim/complainant has established to the offender, personally or through police authority, that such attentions are unwanted, should the behaviour persist, then a charge under section 264 (3) CC may be laid.

23.2 Harassment Investigation

When a complaint of stalking is filed, member(s) shall:

- (a) Immediately conduct a thorough investigation.
- (b) Obtain detailed statements from the victim and any witnesses.

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Ensure the safety of the victim and any children who may be involved. Remind the victim that the potential threat remains, notwithstanding the fact that it has been reported to the police and/or a restraining order has been put in place. The victim should also be reminded that they play a primary role in ensuring their own safety. While it may not be fair, the victim may have a requirement to alter their lifestyle and usual routines, schedules, transportation routes, etc. Precautions to be considered include:

- (i) Victim should not initiate contact or agree to meet with the suspect.
- (ii) Victim should be versed on the available telephone services with respect to call trace capabilities and caller identification.
- (iii) Victim should also advise family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc., of the problem. This will assist with additional means of security and may afford additional witness information.
- (iv) Should the victim wish to relocate to a "safe haven", i.e., shelter or residence of friends or relatives, escort the victim(s) to their residence where they may wish to pick up personal items.
- (c) Provide the victim with telephone numbers of service agencies which may supply some supportive role.
- (d) Seize any weapons used in the commission of the offence and where firearms are present or are readily available to the suspect, the seizure provision as stipulated at section 103 CC should be used, (Application for Warrant to Seize with particular reference to section 103 (2) CC). Should the suspect also possess a Possession Acquisition License (PAL), it along with any permits or registration certificates should be seized by the investigating officer(s).
- (e) Upon conclusion of a thorough investigation and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed, in violation of section 264 *CC*, the member shall immediately review the matter with the NCO i/c. At the conclusion of this review, and the NCO i/c is satisfied an offence has been committed, the NCO i/c will then authorize the arrest of the offender.
- (f) Upon arrest, the accused is to be lodged at the Correctional Centre and brought before a Justice as soon as is practicable for the purposes of seeking

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conditions for release. Should there be any questions with regard to the release of the individual; the Crown Attorney should be consulted.

(g) In some instances charges may not be contemplated as the matter may be of such a nature that a face to face meeting to deter the subject may resolve the matter. This type of deterrent should only be used after careful consideration has been given to all the information at hand.

In some instances, this may well be the final resolution to the situation. However, in all instances a report shall be prepared wherein the warning is to be clearly documented. This will enable other officers and the Crown to reference the information in the future, if required.

- (h) A brief is to be prepared for presentation to the Justice outlining:
 - (i) the history of the relationship between the victim and the accused,
 - (ii) any previous incidents of abuse, or threats of violence (include police reports if any),
 - (iii) whether the accused has a Possession Acquisition License (PAL),
 - (iv) if the complainant has been subject to significant harassment from an unidentified subject, likely to be the accused,
 - (v) details of any significant harassment (include police reports if any).

In situations where the offender cannot be located prior to the end of shift, the investigating member through the NCO i/c should make arrangements for the file to be passed on to an oncoming member, for the continuation of the investigation and the possibility of obtaining a Warrant to Arrest. If obtained ensure the information is immediately entered on CPIC.

23.3 Supervisory Responsibility

The NCO i/c shall ensure all reported incidents are investigated immediately and thoroughly and shall:

- (a) Review the progress of the investigation and where appropriate authorize the arrest of the accused.
- (b) In the absence of the Justice of the Peace, ensure the accused is brought before a Justice.

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- (c) Ensure appropriate documentation has been completed, including the outcome of the appearance before the Justice, whether released or not. If released, what conditions apply?
- (d) If released, ensure Records Section or in their absence, dispatch personnel, have entered the subject on CPIC.
- (e) At the end of shift, if the accused has not been arrested, ensure the information has been passed on to the oncoming supervisor through Briefing Report and that another officer will be assigned to follow up on the investigation.

24. COUNTER CHARGES

- (a) In many instances persons, who are the subject of an investigation of domestic assault, will claim self-defence or complain of themselves having been the victim of an assault. Quite often these accusations are unsubstantiated. Careful consideration must be given to such allegations. Where such allegations arise, officer(s) should investigate further bearing in mind the following:
 - (i) Visible marks or injuries;
 - (ii) Relative size, strength, and demeanour of the parties, including gender;
 - (iii) Statements of witnesses, including children;
 - (iv) Reasonableness of counter accusation and timing;
 - (v) Intoxication levels of the parties;
 - (vi) If self-defence claimed, was force reasonable?
- (b) Prior to laying any charges with regard to a counter accusation, the Crown Attorney shall be contacted and the matter reviewed. Should there be reasonable grounds to believe the counter accusation has actually occurred, member(s) shall proceed as per section 3 of this Protocol.
- (c) Charges, which may be considered, would be those as listed in section 16 (a) (i) of this Protocol.

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APPENDIX A

Police Service/Detachment:	ce/Detachment: Investigator: File No.: Occurrence					ce Date/Time		
Occurrence Address:								
	nial Residence	ି Re	sidence	of Subject of (Complaint	ା Victim	Residence	ା Other
Safety Concerns. Domestic Violence Referral (Y/N):		and Day	6	5 1 b.				
Annessa vickerce reteres (174).		HOW THE	ferral (Y	/ NI).				
	Children	(a ddibe	onal chi	idren on anoth	er form)			
Name		Age	Gende	Present	Witness (Y/N)	Victirn (Y/N)	Injuired (Y/N)	Relation to Allege d Offender
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	Da rent/	Caro	above /	Non-offend			·	
Name	Relation			Address/Phon				
Jomestic Violence Vidilim (V/N):	Injured (Y.	N):		Aware of Refe	erai (Y/N):			
	s	ubjec	t of C	omplaint				
lame:					DOB/Age:		Gend	9r:
iddres si Phone:								
resent Location:								
telation to Children:		R	ekation t	o Parent/Careç	wer.			
Custody (y/n): Charges I	Pending (y/n):		Chi	arge(s):	***************************************	***************************************		
lele ased by Police (yin):	Conditio	ns of F	Release	Attached (y/n)	l:	***************************************		
xisting Court Orders (y/n); PO ∪ 810 □ Police Undertakir robation □ Parole □ Family Court		ikang ()	٠ ا	onauming: Lx /eapon involve		gs: Not Descripto		NA S
etails of Occurrence: (:: attached)			·····					***************************************

Emergency Duty Worker Telephone No.: 1-800-341-6868 or 368-6868 (after rours)
Fax completed form to: 1-902-368-6898

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Reference Information - Child Protection Act

S.1(h) "child" means a person under the age of 18 years

- 9. A child is in need of protection where
- (a) the child has suffered physical harm inflicted by a parent;
- (b) the child is at substantial risk of suffering physical harm inflicted by a parent;
- (c) the child has suffered harm caused by
- (i) neglect of the child by a parent,
- (ii) failure of a parent to adequately supervise or protect the child, or
- (iii) failure of a parent to provide for the adequate supervision or protection of the child;
- (d) the child is at substantial risk of suffering harm caused by
- (i) neglect of the child by a parent,
- (ii) failure of a parent to adequately supervise or protect the child, or
- (iii) failure of a parent to provide for the adequate supervision or protection of the child;
- (e) the child has been sexually abused by a parent or by another person where the parent knew or ought to have known of the

possibility of sexual abuse of the child and the parent failed to preect the child;

(f) the child is at substantial risk of sexual abuse by a parent or by another person where the parent knew or ought to have

known of the possibility of sexual abuse of the child and the parent failed to protect the child;

(g) the child has been harmed as a result of being sexually exploited for the purpose of prostitution and the parent has failed

or been unable to protect the child;

(h) the child is at substantial risk of being sexually exploited for the purpose of prostitution and the paent has failed or been

unable to protect the child;

(I) the child has been harmed as a result of being exposed to or involved in the production of child pornography and the

parent has failed or been unable to protect the child;

(j) the child is at substantial risk of being harmed as a result of being exposed to or involved in the production of

pornography and the parent has failed or been unable to protect the child;

(k) the child has suffered emotional harm inflicted by a parent, or by another person where the parent knew or ought to have

known that the other person was emotionally abusing the child and the parent failed to protect the child;

(l) the child is at substantial risk of suffering emotional harm caused by a parent, or by another person, whre the parent

knew or ought to have known, that the other person was emotionally abusing the child and the parent failed to protect the

child;

- (m) the child has suffered physical or emotional harm caused by being exposed to domestic violence by or towards a parent;
- (n) the child is at substantial risk of suffering physical or emotional harm caused by being exposed to domestic violence by

or towards a parent;

- (o) the child requires specific medical, psychological or psychiatric treatment to cure, prevent orameliorate the effects of a
- physical or emotional condition or harm suffered, and the parent does not, or refuses to, obtain treatment or is unavailable or unable to consent to treatment;
- (p) the child suffers from a mental, emotional or developmental comition that, if not addressed, could seriously harm the
- child and the parent does not or refuses to obtain treatment or is unavailable or unable to consent to services or

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treatment to remedy or ameliorate the effects of the condition;

(q) the child has been abandoned, or the only parent of the child has died or is unavailable to take custody of the child, and

adequate provisions have not been made for the care of the child;

(r) the child is in the custody of the Director or another person and the parent of the child refuses or is unable to resume

custody of the child;

- (s) the child is less than 12 years old, and the child, in the opinion of the Director,
- (i) may have killed or seriously injured another person,
- (ii) poses a serious danger to another person, or
- (iii) may have caused significant loss or damage to property, and the parent of the child does not obtain or is unwilling

to consent to treatment for the child which may be necessary to prevent a recurrence of the incident or danger; or

- (t) the past parenting by the parent has put a child at significant risk of harm within the meaning of this section. Mandatory Reporting
- 10. (1) Notwithstanding any other Act, every person who has knowledge, or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is in

need of protection shall

(a) without delay, report or cause to be reported the circumstances to the Director, or to a peace officer who shall report

the information to the Director; and

(b) provide to the Director such additional information as is known or availabe to the person.

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APPENDIX B

COURT BRIEF

Edicar	rd,		Cou	rt I	nformatio	n Pa	ckage	;	
Police Serv	ice/Detachment:		Unit:		File No.:		Date and Ti	me of Occurrence	
investigator	(e):				Call Type: □ 911 □ Non-emerge	a nay	Domestic V	iolence File:	
Offence in	formation/Locati	on							
Address:									
	☐ Matrimonial Res	idence ⊡Aco.	sed Residen	ce (3 Victim Residence				
	Other:							·	
Weapon:	Involved: ☐ Yes	□ No Descri	ption:			Ph	oto graphed	: CIYes CINo	
Property D	amaged: □Yea	☐ No Insure	d: □Yes	□ No	Deductible Amou	int:			
Damege Es	timate: ⊜ Receive	ed ⊟Requeste	ed CINIOLE	dequire o	1				
Accused !	nformation and B	ackground							
Sumame:		G1:		G2:		Alias	(es):		
Date of Birs	h (wm/d):	Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female	Address						
Telephone:	Does th	e accused have a	s criminal rec	ord?	C CPIC FACTS 5 (Prov)	☐ Previous domestic violence case ☐ Same Victim			
Any Extending	Orders: ☐ No		Probation Parole	O Ur	nditional Sentence dertaking (Justice) dertaking (Police)	C) Su	preme Court	(civil)	
Relationship Marrie Comm	d ion Law	onve f Monthe i No. of t	Assets	1	Currently separated	/dinvorced	_		
Accused Co	neuming:	Accused Impai	red:		red by: Voohol Drugs	Туре	of Drug(a):		
								NA.	
	Offence's Charg	ed		Secti	on and Act	F	rimary	Secondary	
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Previous Ox	ders: Sex Offers	ter ⊟ Firearms	Prohibition	[] D1	A CONAM NOD	B		1	
Cautioned S CI Yes		a DWmmen D	Attached	€.	rded Statement: Audio Only Audio/Video		taneous Stat IYes □ N		
Release/Six	ow Cause			***************************************					
☐ Under ☐ Accus	taking before a justik taking before a peac ed in custody after S ed serving existing j	e officer or office thow Cause/Remi	and: Clunt		t clause) with promise with by isw (1516		3 /		
□ Ptaces	tin Custody:	Date:		Time:					
□ Releas	sed from Custody [)ante:		Time:					

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APPENDIX C

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST

	CHECKL	IST							
Prin Edita 13 Isla	Prince Domestic Violence Edivard Police Investigation Checklist								
Subject of	f Complaint:	D.O.B:		Police File No.:					
Date of Oc	ccurrence:		Lead Investigator:						
Status: 0	େ Nocharges ଓ 810 ା Charged Crimin	al Code	© EPO applied for	© EPO Granted □ SUI					
Relations	hip: © Parent/child © Sibling © Married	© Come	non law @ Datting	୍ Separated on					
Does eithe	er subject or victim have children under	18: GY	es ⊠No						
⊜ injuries	Observed: @ Victim @ Chilidren @ Pe	s O Aco	used						
Telephone	e Damaged: © Yes © No	1	We apons Involved	f: oYes oNo					
Avallable	Evidence: (O denotes to be obtained)								
C C	Statement of Victim(s)								
a O :	Statement of Accused								
ော	Statement of Witnesses								
ော	Photographs of: Dinjuries to victim Damage to property		Follow up photos as Injuries to accused	mang ed					
o O 1	Estimate of Damages: D Requested D	Received	o N/A						
0 O	Medical Report: □ Requested □ Recei	ved DN	one available 🙃 🔾	Medical consent					
9 9	911 tape								
a 🔾 1	Weaponsselzed: ⇔Firearm ⇔Knife :	Other _							
9 0 1	Record: CPIC CFACTS 5								
At time of (Occurrence, Subject Bound By: © EPC	O © Und	ertaking © Probati	on Supreme Court Order					
Not ificatio:	ns:								
Victim(s) C	Contacted: ⊈Yes ⊄No								
Victim(s) A	dvised ef: © Right to apply for an EPO © Avail ability of Victim Service © Avail ability of Anderson Hou © Right to file Victim Impact St	se/Outrea	on Services						
Child and	d Family Services Form Sent								
telease									
Show Ca Accused Released Release to Other Rei	Ivised of Release	to law o	a.516 adjournment	: αYes αNo					
Victim Pr	ovided Copy of Undertaking								
	Documentation								
Victim Re	pport □ Second-li	ne Scorir	19	© CPIC Entries Made					
creaned b	y:		Date:						
VT15-13858			Further	r Work Required on File: ⊠ Yes ⊠ N					

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APPENDIX D SHOW CAUSE INFORMATION

Princes Edward •• Island	

Show Cause Information

Taland	0		uuse iii					
		C	Youth	□ Adult	□ No	t a 469 offend		
Police Agency:	File No.:		Witness to	estify:				
Accused:			Address:					
Offence(s) Charged:			Offences Outstanding:					
Employer:			© El Unemployed Since:					
Crown 5 heet Attached □			Criminal Record Attached: © FACTS 5 © CPIC					
Accused Bound by Attached Orders © EPC	O Probation	□ Underk	iking © Paroi	e 0810 l	Recognica	nce		
01 00 00 01	ndictable offence ndictable offence charge le under f offence punishab errorism offence criminal organizat	accused no 45(2) to 145 le by life un	of resident of Ci (5)	ana da	e offence			
Primary Ground: detention necessary to ensur	s attendance in c	out in order	to he dealt wit	h according	to lew			
Tributy of our at Concession increases yet concess		00111112000	CO DO GO INC	** ************************************	100000			
of justice.								
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Tertiary Ground: detention is necessary to main discurring transces, including strength of prosecution and potential for lengthy term of imprisonment.								
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