

## **Auditing and Review Unit**

## Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

# Child Abuse Unit Audit (SVD) March 2024 Report

(Sept 2023 – Jan 2024 Data)

## Report #CA032024

Draft submitted by PSAB: March 11, 2024

Response by SVS: March 12, 2024 Final Report: March 19, 2024

#### **Audit Team**

This audit was managed and conducted by the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

## **Executive Summary**

The Audit and Review Unit (ARU) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau conducted a Child Abuse Unit Checklist Audit in March of 2024. The Child Abuse checklist audits ensure that the Child Abuse Unit is operating in compliance with the most updated New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) policies covering Chapters 42.19 regarding "Child Abuse". The Consent Decree mandates Child Abuse detectives training in Child Abuse-specific matters. As a result, detectives will be able to respond timely to the investigations of Child Abuse incidents, review all evidence and statements, and conduct effective victim-oriented case follow-ups as needed. The audit also focuses on ensuring that each detective works actively to engage the victims and provides guidance on how to get counseling, assistance, and support from available social services.

The March 2024 audit was completed utilizing the most recent Child Abuse Audit Protocol at the time of the audit. This audit consists of thirty-one (31) questions and additional follow-up requests, which covered paragraphs 196-213 of the Consent Decree (CD). Based on the combined total of "one thousand, one hundred, sixteen" (1,116) checklist items rated from the sample size of thirty-six (36) case files audited, the "overall score" of this Child Abuse Unit case file audit conducted by the Audit and Review Unit was 99.8%.

The scorecard for the Child Abuse Checklist Audit has been updated to include explanations for "Not Applicable" scorings.

Supervisors should address deficiencies with specific training through specific In-service Training classes or Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs). Such training should be reinforced by close and efficient supervision in addition to Supervisor Feedback Logs entries.

Of the thirty-one (31) questions, thirty-one (31) scored compliant.

More detailed results are embedded in the Scorecards and Conclusion sections.

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## Introduction

The Audit and Review Unit of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau audited the Child Abuse Unit investigation case files, covering the period of September 2023 to January 2024; the audit occurred from March 5, 2024, to March 8, 2024, and was a double-blind review.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Child Abuse Unit case file audit was to verify departmental compliance with the Consent Decree and NOPD Operations Manual, Chapter 42.19, "Child Abuse" and Chapter 42.2 "Sexual Assault" investigations.

#### Scope

This audit will determine and document whether investigators and supervisors of the New Orleans Police Department Child Abuse Unit provided an accurate and thorough response in conducting follow-up investigations. The auditors are responsible for verifying that each response is proactive, victim-centered, and professional. Upon completion, the audit manager will submit a report to the Captains of the Child Abuse Unit and the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB), pointing out any deficiencies or confirming that a thorough investigation occurred. The submission of audit reports will assist in maintaining accurate and complete Child Abuse Unit investigations in the future. Members of the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor will receive the final Child Abuse report.

#### Methodology

**Population** – All Child Abuse Unit case files (362) for the period to audit.

**Sample size** – Thirty-six (36) case files were selected via EXCEL's "RAND" function from the three hundred sixty-two (362) cases taken in for September 2023 through January of 2024.

Documentation to be reviewed – All documents and investigative material contained within each case file.

**Testing Instrument(s)** – New Orleans Police Department Operations Manual Chapter 42.19, "Child Abuse Investigations" (Effective: 1/7/2018), and a thirty-one (31) point Child Abuse Audit Checklist. Each case file will be audited in its entirety via the "Double-blind Review" auditing process.

#### Data

The audit range is typically quarterly, occurring every three months. The March 2024 audit included data from September 2023 through January 2024. The Child Abuse Unit, upon request, will provide to the Innovation Manager of the Audit and Review Unit (ARU) or the Captain within PSAB any item numbers that occurred during the audit range period. The ARU will then use Excel (Rand Function) to randomize cases to select for review. The ARU will then review at least 10% of those cases within the audit range.

## Initiating and Conducting the Child Abuse Audit

The lead auditor of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) contacted the SVD Lieutenant, Commander of the SVD Unit, on February 15, 2024, to notify her of a scheduled Child Abuse Unit case file audit that would be initiated by the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) Audit and Review Unit (ARU), during the week of March 5, 2024.

An advanced notice was provided to the Lieutenant so that the supervisor of the Child Abuse Unit would be on standby to provide the requested case files to ARU as soon as possible. The checklist, as well as the audit protocol, were also given to the Lieutenant.

During this audit week, PSAB requested and received thirty-six (36) case files to audit.

Each case file was systematically reviewed via "Double-Blind" audit process by auditors of the Audit and Review Unit, based on each file's compliance with the New Orleans Police Department Operations Manual Chapter 42.19 "Child Abuse" investigations. To facilitate this process, the Auditors used the thirty-one (31) point Child Abuse checklist as a gauge to review and analyze the content of every case file.

The list of Auditors who conducted each "double-blind" case file audit, as well as the associated case file counts are as follows:

Auditor Team 1 - (6)

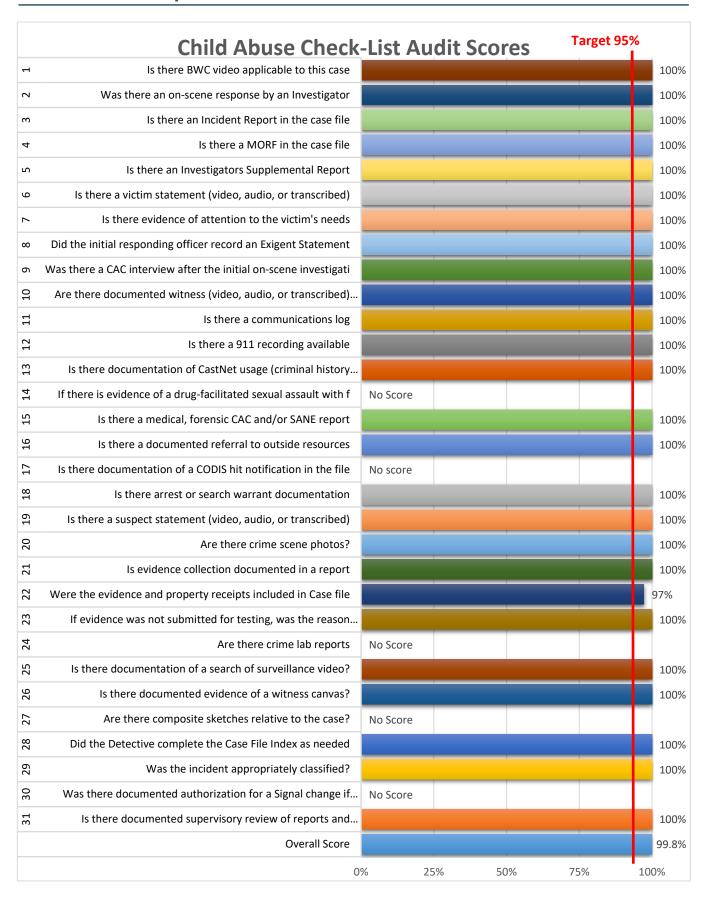
Auditor Team 2 - (6)

Auditor Team 3 - (12)

Auditor Team 4 - (12)

**Total: 36 Case Files (Double-blind)** 

## **Child Abuse Graph**



## **Child Abuse Scorecard**

### Child Abuse Check-List Scorecard - (Double-Blind)

ARU percentages for Consent Decree requirements for child abuse check-list audit.

Audit Period: Mar, 2024

Review Period: September 2023-January 2024

The Audit Check-List Questions Score Y N U NA NA Explanations CD

meen Lis	Questions	Score	1	1 1	U	INA	NA Explanations	CD
1	Is there BWC video applicable to this case	100%	23	0		13	No BWC applicable to the case	196, 212
			1.5	0		21	Victim relocated to hospital; Victim reported event	
2	Was there an on-scene response by an Investigator	100%	15	U		21	at the district station.	195, 213
3	Is there an Incident Report in the case file	100%	36	0		0	None	196, 198, 213
4	Is there a MORF in the case file	100%	36	0		0	None	196, 198, 212
5	Is there an Investigators Supplemental Report	100%	36	0		0	None	196, 197, 198, 2
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						Victim unable to be contacted or located; There is no	
			27	0	0	9	crime and therefore no victim; Victim too young to	
6	Is there a victim statement (video, audio, or transcribed)	100%					articulate statement	196, 197, 213
							Victim unable to be contacted or located; There is no	
-		1000/	32	0		4	crime and therefore no victim	407.242
	Is there evidence of attention to the victim's needs	100%	2	0		34	No exigent statement necessary	197, 213
8	Did the initial responding officer record an Exigent Statement	100%		H	-		,	196, 213
9	Was there a CAC interview after the initial on-scene investigati	100%	16	0		20	No CAC scheduled; Victim absent during interview	213
	Are there documented witness (video, audio, or transcribed) stat	100%	27	0		9	No witnesses available; No crime	196, 198, 213
	Is there a communications log	100%	36	0		0	None	196, 213
	as there is communications rog	10070					No 911 audio available due to district walk-in or	170, 213
12	Is there a 911 recording available	100%	23	0		13	DCFS initiated call; No call for service	196, 213
	Is there documentation of CastNet usage (criminal history check)	100%	32	0		4	No crime occurred; Case is on-going	198
14	If there is evidence of a drug-facilitated sexual assault with f	-	0	0		36	No drug-facilitated sexual assault involved	208, 213
			16	0		20	Victim refused medical services; CAC interview	
15	Is there a medical, forensic CAC and/or SANE report	100%	10	U		20	cancelled; No injury reported	199
16	Is there a documented referral to outside resources	100%	28	0			Victim unable to be located; No victim	213, 216
	Is there documentation of a CODIS hit notification in the file	-	0	0			No CODIS hit for the suspect; No crime occurred	196,198,199,23
18	Is there arrest or search warrant documentation	100%	12	0		24	No search or arrest warrant application submitted	196
			16	0	0	20	No suspect; Suspect arrested by warrant; Unable to	
19	Is there a suspect statement (video, audio, or transcribed)	100%			Ĺ		locate suspect	196, 198
20		1000/	9	0		27	Evidence was not captured due to lack of crime	
	Are there crime scene photos?  Is evidence collection documented in a report	100%	26		-		scene; No crime occurred	196, 198, 213
	Were the evidence and property receipts included in Case file	100% 97%	36 35	0		0	None None	196, 198, 199, 2
	If evidence was not submitted for testing, was the reason docume	100%	2	0	1	34	*****	196, 198, 213 196, 198, 209
	Are there crime lab reports	10076	0	0		36	No evidence submitted to the crime lab	196, 213
	Is there documentation of a search of surveillance video?	100%	4	0			No surveillance video relevant to the case	196, 198, 213
	The second secon	- 50/5	† ·	Ť			Canvas did not occur due to witness reporting the	,, 213
			8	0		28	crime, district walk-in, case is on-going, or no crime	
26	Is there documented evidence of a witness canvas?	100%		1			occurred	196, 198, 213
	Are there composite sketches relative to the case?	-	0	0	H	36	No relative sketches composed	196, 198, 213
	Did the Detective complete the Case File Index as needed	100%	36	0		0	None	196, 213
	Was the incident appropriately classified?	100%	36	0		0	None	195, 213
	Was there documented authorization for a Signal change if requir	-	0	0		36	No signal change occurred	206, 213
	Is there documented supervisory review of reports and dispositio	100%	36	0		0	None	201, 213
	Overall Score	99.8%	617	2	0	545		

#### ARU General Comments

ARU audited sampled Child Abuse case file items for a defined period, for completeness and accuracy as required by the Consent Decreee.

For an explanation of the procedure and scoring system for this review, see the associated "protocol " document.

For a list of relevant policies, contact PSAB as needed.

For the audit results for each case file, see the accompanying RawData spreadsheets.

Scores below 95% are highlighted in red.

## Case File Reviews

The below listed information reveals the outcome of the Audit Team's checklist reviews.

- Is there BWC video applicable to this case? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 23 were audited as positive, none were negative and 13 were N/A (not applicable).
- Was there an on-scene response by Child Abuse? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 15 were audited as positive, none were negative and 21 were N/A (not applicable).
- Is there an Incident Report in the case file? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 4. **Is there a MORF in the case file?** The overall score for this category was **100**%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 5. **Is there a Supplemental Report?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 6. Is there a victim statement (video, audio, or transcribed)? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 27 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 9 were N/A (not applicable).
- 7. Is there evidence of attention to the victim's needs (i.e., Did the investigator demonstrate empathy, safety & medical needs of the victim, etc.)? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 32 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 4 were N/A (not applicable).
- 8. Did the initial responding officer record an Exigent Statement to determine that a crime occurred, if necessary? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 2 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 34 were N/A (not applicable).
- Was there a CAC Interview after the initial on-scene investigation? The overall score for this
  category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 16 were audited as positive, none were
  negative, and 20 were N/A (not applicable).

- 10. Are there documented witness statements (video, audio, or transcribed)? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 27 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 9 were N/A (not applicable).
- 11. **Is there a communications log?** The overall score for this category was **100**%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 12. **Is there a 911 recording available?** The overall score for this category was **100%.** Of the 36 cases reviewed, 23 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 13 were N/A (not applicable).
- 13. Is there documentation of CastNet usage (criminal history check)? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 32 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 4 were N/A (not applicable).
- 14. If there is evidence of a drug-facilitated sexual assault with follow up according to policy? The overall score for this category was **No Score**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, none were audited as positive, none were negative, and 36 were N/A (not applicable).
- 15. Is there a medical, forensic, CAC and/or SANE report in the Case File? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 16 were audited as positive, none were negative and 20 were N/A (not applicable).
- 16. Is there a documented referral to outside resources (i.e., NOFJC, CAC, DCFS, NOPD Social Workers)? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 28 were audited as positive, none were negative and 8 were N/A (not applicable).
- 17. Is there documentation of a CODIS hit notification in the file? The overall score for this category was **No Score**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, none were audited as positive, none were negative, and 36 were N/A (not applicable).
- 18. Is there arrest or search warrant documentation? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 12 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 24 were N/A (not applicable).
- 19. Is there a suspect statement (video, audio, or transcribed)? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 16 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 20 were N/A (not applicable).
- 20. Were there crime scene photos taken when evidence could be captured/recorded, as appropriate? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 9 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 27 were N/A (not applicable).

- 21. **Is evidence collection documented in a report?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 22. Were the evidence & property receipts included within the Case File for submitted evidence? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 35 were audited as positive, 1 was negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 23. If evidence was not submitted for testing, was the reason documented in a report? The overall score for this category was **100**%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 2 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 34 were N/A (not applicable).
- 24. **Are there crime lab reports?** The overall score for this category was **No Score**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, none were audited as positive, none were negative, and 36 were N/A (not applicable).
- 25. **Is there documentation of a search of surveillance video?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 4 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 32 were N/A (not applicable).
- 26. Is there documented evidence of a witness canvas? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 8 were audited as positive, none were negative, and 28 were N/A (not applicable).
- 27. **Are there composite sketches relative to the case?** The overall score for this category was **No Score**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, none were audited as positive, none were negative, and 36 were N/A (not applicable).
- 28. Did the Detective complete (initial and date) the Case File Index as items were entered in the Case File? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 29. Was the incident appropriately classified? The overall score for this category was 100%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).
- 30. Was there documented authorization for a signal change if required? The overall score for this category was **No Score**. Of the 36 cases reviewed, none were audited as positive, none were negative, and 36 were N/A (not applicable).
- 31. **Is there documented supervisory review of reports and dispositions?** The overall score for this category was **100**%. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 36 were audited as positive, none were negative, and none were N/A (not applicable).

## **Conclusion (Final)**

Based on the combined total of one thousand one hundred sixteen (1,116) checklist items rated, from the sample size of thirty-six (36) case files audited, the "Overall Score" of this March 2024 Child Abuse Unit case file audit conducted by the Auditing and Review Unit was 99.8%.

#### **Final Results**

The overall results of the March 2024 Child Abuse audit revealed compliance threshold scores of **above 95%** in all areas; therefore, there were no areas of concerns noted.

#### Recommendations

The audit resulted in 99.8% compliance for the March 2024 Child Abuse Audit. There were no recommendations from PSAB.

#### **Unit Response**

Overall, The Child Abuse Unit performed well. The implementation of self- auditing within SVD is working and will continue to be used to self-correct.

## Child Abuse Unit Responses & PSAB Notes:

In the *Conclusion (Final)* section of the Audit Report, PSAB Auditors noted that the Child Abuse compliance threshold was above 95% in all areas; therefore, there were no areas of concerns.

The following checklist items revealed threshold scores of 97%:

#### 13. Is there documentation of CastNet usage (criminal history check)?

**Unit Response:** This case involved two juveniles (victim & alleged perpetrator). The victim refused to identify the juvenile perpetrator and the case detective was not able to develop any leads to his identification. Without identifiers, it is impossible to run a name via CastNet. The case detective noted on the case index sheet, that the subject was not identified, (see attachment). **PSAB Note:** Upon reviewing the response provided by the Child Abuse Unit, the ARU determined there was no CastNet applicable to this case due to the victim refusing to identify the perpetrator. The score has been updated from **97% to 100%.** 

# 22. Were the evidence & property receipts included within the Case File for submitted evidence?

**Unit Response:** PSAB auditors were correct with this assessment. The detective erroneously left out the CE&P Receipt. The supervisor ensured the CE&P was later added to the case file following the audit.

PSAB Note: No change necessary, as the Child Abuse Unit concurs with the ARU's findings.

**Innovation Manager, Auditing** 

Jovan M. Berry

Timothy A. Lindsey

**Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau** 

**Auditor** 

**Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau** 

# Appendix A – Report Distribution

Deputy Supt. PSAB Bureau

Captain PSAB Bureau

Deputy Supt. ISB Bureau

Captain ISB Bureau

Lieutenant SVS Unit

### **Attachments:**

Excel Raw Data Spreadsheet for January through August 2023 audit

## The following checklist was the instrument used by the auditing team to review each case file.

	CHILD ABUSE AUDIT REVIEW CHECKLIST  Number:	NA = Not		
Aud Date	olicable litor: e: upliant/No	Y = Compliant N = Not		
	e Detective	U = Unknown		
1.	Is there BWC video applicable to this case?	□NA / □Y / □N /		
2.	Was there an on-scene response by an Investigator?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
3.	Is there an Incident Report in the case file?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
4.	Is there a MORF in the case file?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
5.	Is there an Investigator's Supplemental Report?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
6.	Is there a victim statement (video, audio, or transcribed)?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
7.	Is there evidence of attention to the victim's needs? (i.e., Did the investigator demonstrate empathy, safety & medical needs of the victim, etc.)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
8.	Did the initial responding officer record an Exigent Statement to determine that a crime occurred, if necessary? (Mark NA if not appropriate)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
9.	Was there a CAC interview after the initial on-scene investigation?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
10.	Are there documented witness statements (video, audio, or transcribed)?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
11.	Is there a communications log? (incident recall)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
12.	Is there a 911 recording available?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
13.	Is there documentation of CastNet usage (criminal history check)?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
14.	If there is evidence of a drug-facilitated sexual assault with follow up according to policy?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
15.	Is there a medical, forensic, CAC and/or SANE report in the case file?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
16.	Is there a documented referral to outside resources (i.e., NOFJC, CAC, DCFS, NOPD Social Workers)?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
17.	Is there documentation of a CODIS hit notification in the file?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
18.	Is there arrest or search warrant documentation?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
19.	Is there a suspect statement (video, audio, or transcribed)?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		
20.	Were there crime scene photos taken when evidence could be captured/recorded, as appropriate? (photos may be in Property & Evidence or case file materials)	□NA / □Y / □N / □U		

21. Is evidence collection documented in a report?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
22. Were the evidence & property receipts included within the Case File for submitted evidence?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
23. If evidence was not submitted for testing, was the reason documented in a report?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
24. Are there crime lab reports?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
25. Is there documentation of a search of surveillance video?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
26. Is there documented evidence of a witness canvas?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
27. Are there composite sketches relative to the case?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
28. Did the Detective complete (initial and date) the Case File Index as items were entered in the Case File?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
29. Was the incident appropriately classified?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
30. Was there documented authorization for a Signal change if required?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
31. Is there documented supervisory review of reports and dispositions?	□NA / □Y / □N / □U
Did Auditor listen to recordings of the victim interview(s)?	□NA / □Y / □N
Did Auditor listen to suspect interview(s)?	□NA / □Y / □N
Narrative/Comments:	