



Audit and Review Section
Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

Domestic Violence Section Audit August 2025 Report - Final

Report: DVS082025

Review Period: October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Submitted by PSAB: September 3, 2025

Response from Domestic Violence: September 9, 2025

Final Report: September 10, 2025

Audit Team

This audit was managed and conducted by the Auditing and Review Section of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

Executive Summary

The Audit and Review Section (ARS) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau conducted a Domestic Violence Section (DVS) Checklist Audit in August 2025. DVS checklist audits ensure that the Domestic Violence Section is operating in compliance with the most updated New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) policies covering Chapters 42.4 and 42.4.1 regarding “Domestic Violence” and “Domestic Disturbance,” respectively. The Consent Decree mandates DVS detectives training in DV-specific matters. As a result, detectives will be able to respond timely to the investigations of Domestic Violence 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 August 2025 audit was completed utilizing the most recent DV Audit Protocol at the time of the audit. This audit consists of thirty-two (**32**) questions and additional follow-up requests, which cover paragraphs 212-222 of the Consent Decree (CD). Based on the combined total of “seven hundred and sixty-eight” (**768**) checklist items rated from the sample size of twenty-four (**24**) case files audited, the “*overall score*” of this Domestic Violence Section case file audit conducted by the Audit and Review Section was **99.6%**.

The scorecard for the Domestic Violence Section 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-two (**32**) questions, thirty (**31**) scored as compliant.

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

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Introduction.....	4
Purpose	4
Scope.....	4
Methodology	4
Data.....	4
Initiating and Conducting the Domestic Violence Audit	5
Domestic Violence Section Scorecards	6
DVS Case File Audit Results (Initial)	8
Mandated Consent Decree paragraph responses (CD 212-222).....	12
Overall Compliance Score (Final).....	17
Conclusion (Final).....	17
Results.....	17
Recommendations	17
Section Response to Recommendations.....	17
Domestic Violence Section Responses to PSAB Notes:.....	18
Domestic Violence Checklist Form:.....	20
Appendix C -Report Distribution	22

Introduction

The Audit and Review Section of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau audited the Domestic Violence Section’s investigation case files, covering the period of October 2024 to March 2025; The audit occurred from August 21, 2025, through August 28, 2025, and was completed as a single review.

Purpose

The Domestic Violence Section case file audit verifies Departmental compliance with the Consent Decree and NOPD Operations Manual’s Chapters 42.4 “Domestic Violence” and 42.4.1 “Domestic Disturbance” investigations.

Scope

The audit will determine and document whether there was a proper response by investigators and supervisors of the New Orleans Police Department’s Domestic Violence Section in conducting follow-up investigations. The auditor assigned to the audit is responsible for verifying that each response is proactive, victim-centered, and professional. Upon completion, the audit manager will submit a report to the appointed authority of the Domestic Violence Section and the Leadership of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau, pointing out any deficiencies or confirming a thorough investigation. Members of the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor will additionally receive the report; The submission of audit reports will assist in maintaining accurate and complete Domestic Violence Section investigations in the future.

Methodology

Population size – the Domestic Violence Section only.

Sample size –The selected sample size is a randomized selection of 15% of the total case files as mandated by the DVS Case File Audit Protocol.

Documentation review – All documents and investigative material contained within each case file.

Testing Instrument(s) – The instruments used included: The New Orleans Police Department’s Operations Manual Chapters 42.4 Domestic Violence (Effective: 1/31/2021), the 42.4.1 Domestic Disturbances (Effective 7/8/2018), and the thirty-two (32) point Domestic Violence Case File Checklist.

In addition, the Consent Decree Paragraphs 212-222 will be verified by reaching out to the individuals with a stake in ensuring compliance with those paragraphs. Each case file will be audited via a “single review” process by members of the Audit and Review Section (ARS) to give a reliable and thorough review of each case file.

Data

The audit range is every six months; the Domestic Violence Section, upon request, will provide the Innovation Manager of the Audit and Review Section, or the Captain within PSAB, all item numbers during the audit range period. The Audit and Review Section will then use Excel (Rand function) to randomize review cases.

Afterward, the Audit and Review Section will review a population of at least **15%** of those cases within the audit range. From the current population, **15%**, or twenty-four (**24**) case files were selected via a randomizer system from 159 files taken in by the Domestic Violence Section from October 2024 to March 2025.

Initiating and Conducting the Domestic Violence Audit

An auditor of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) initially contacted the Commander of the DVS, and Sergeant of the Domestic Violence Section (DVS), on August 12, 2025, to request the case file list for the review period involved. On August 14, 2025, the DV Section received the sample list of case files PSAB planned to audit and to notify them of a scheduled Domestic Violence Section case file audit that would be initiated by the Audit and Review Section (ARS), starting August 17, 2025, and concluding August 29, 2025.

The lieutenant was provided with this advanced notice to ensure a DVS supervisor was on standby to provide the requested case files to the Audit and Review Section upon demand. The lieutenant received the thirty-two-point checklist in addition to the audit protocol.

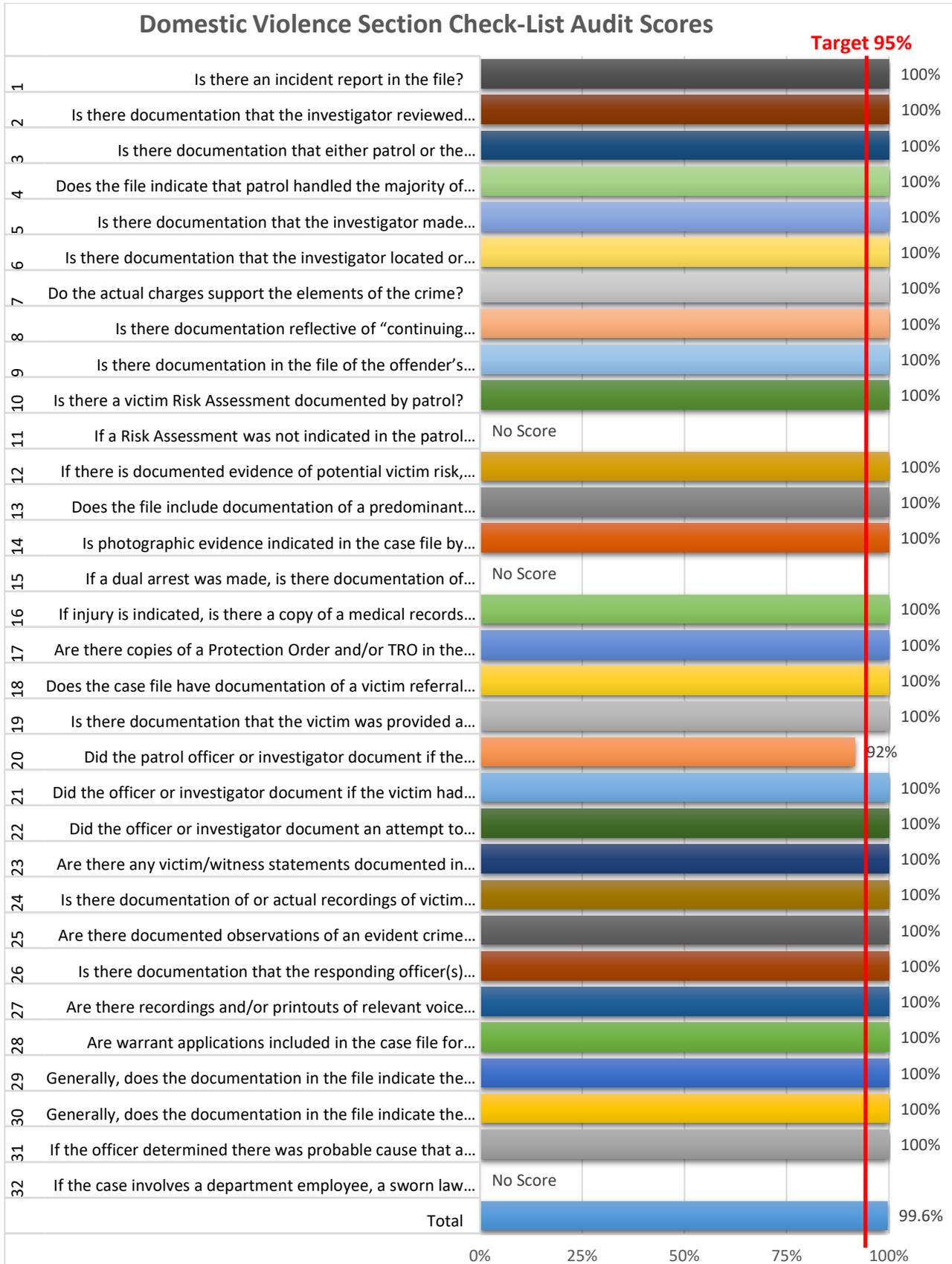
During this audit, the ARS requested and received the twenty-four **(24)** case files from the on-duty DVS Sergeant for review. The ARS auditors conducted the audit at the office of the ARS, reviewing each case file checklist before returning the files to the DVS.

Each case file was systematically reviewed via a “single review” audit process by the ARS for compliance with the New Orleans Police Department’s Operations Manual Chapters 42.4 and 42.4.1 relating to “Domestic Violence” investigations. To facilitate this process, the auditors used the thirty-two **(32)** point DVS case file checklist (with an available commentary space to document any specific areas) as a gauge to review and analyze the content of every case file.

The auditors then conducted a “single review” case file audit, as well as the associated case files.

Total: 24 Case Files (single review)

Domestic Violence Section Scorecards



Domestic Violence Unit Check-List Scorecard - (Double-blind)

ARU percentages for Consent Decree requirements for Domestic Violence Unit Checklist Audit.

Period: August 2025

Data Range: Oct. 2024 - Mar. 2025

Check-List Questions	Score	Y	N	NA	NA Explanations	CD #
1 Is there an incident report in the file?	100%	24	0	0	None	212
2 Is there documentation that the investigator reviewed body worn camera footage if the incident report indicates a BWC recording would aid in the follow-up investigation?	100%	24	0	0	None	213
3 Is there documentation that either patrol or the investigator documented interviews by written or audio recorded statements, or by BWC?	100%	24	0	0	None	213
4 Does the file indicate that patrol handled the majority of the case and therefore some documentation would be included elsewhere (statements, photographic evidence, evidence receipts)?	100%	19	0	5	(5) Investigator handled majority of the case	212
5 Is there documentation that the investigator made contact with the victim within one week of the DV incident, or within a reasonable period based on the circumstances?	100%	18	0	6	Of the 6 N/A scorings: (5) Detective unable to locate or contact victim.(1) All pertinent information gathered.	213
6 Is there documentation that the investigator located or attempted to locate the victim through various means (neighbors, employment, Advocate resources)?	100%	18	0	6	Of the 6 N/A scorings: (5) Unable to contact or locate victim. (1) Case handled by patrol.	213
7 Do the actual charges support the elements of the crime?	100%	24	0	0	None	213
8 Is there documentation reflective of "continuing engagement" with the victim?	100%	9	0	15	Of the 15 N/A Scorings: (6) Cleared by arrest. (5) Unable to contact or locate victim. (3) Closed by warrant. (1) Victim refused to cooperate.	213
9 Is there documentation in the file of the offender's "criminal history" or a "past history" check by either patrol or the investigator?	100%	23	0	1	(1) Insufficient information for subject.	213
10 Is there a victim Risk Assessment documented by patrol?	100%	23	0	1	(1) Risk Assessment Conducted by Investigator	213
11 If a Risk Assessment was not indicated in the patrol officer's incident report or was insufficient, did the investigator probe for details regarding the Risk Assessment, or conduct a documented Risk Assessment?	-	0	0	24	Of the 24 N/A scorings: (22) Patrol conducted the risk assessment. (1) Unable to locate or contact victim. (1)Victim refused to cooperate	213
12 If there is documented evidence of potential victim risk, did the officer or investigator initiate follow-up action or document safety and/or protection advice?	100%	12	0	12	Of the 12 N/A scorings: (6) Not follow-up action required. (5) No safety-protection indicated. (1) Unable to locate or contact victim	213
13 Does the file include documentation of a predominant aggressor assessment by patrol or the investigator?	100%	24	0	0	None	214
14 Is photographic evidence indicated in the case file by either patrol officers or the case follow-up investigator?	100%	5	0	19	Of the 19 N/A scorings: (14) Injury captured via BWC. (5) No visible injuries noted	213
15 If a dual arrest was made, is there documentation of supervisory approval?	-	0	0	24	Of the 24 N/A scorings: (21) No dual arrest. (3) No arrest made.	214
16 If injury is indicated, is there a copy of a medical records release form in the file?	100%	6	0	18	Of the 18 N/A scorings: (13) Victim refused medical attention. (3) Victim refused release. (1) Unable to locate the victim. (1) Victim unwilling to cooperate with the investigation.	213
17 Are there copies of a Protection Order and/or TRO in the case file?	100%	2	0	22	(22) No Protection Order or TRO involved in the case.	213
18 Does the case file have documentation of a victim referral to the NOFJC?	100%	22	0	2	(2) Victim unwilling to cooperate with the investigation.	216
19 Is there documentation that the victim was provided a Form #45 and Rights of Crime Victims brochures?	100%	22	0	2	Of the 2 N/A scorings: (1) Victim unwilling to cooperate with the investigation. (1) Victim was in a life-threatening state.	216
20 Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?	92%	22	2	0	None	213
21 Did the officer or investigator document if the victim had difficulty breathing or a loss of consciousness to support DV strangulation charges?	100%	12	0	12	(12) No strangulation reported.	213
22 Did the officer or investigator document an attempt to have child witnesses of DV forensically interviewed?	100%	1	0	23	Of the 23 N/A scorings: (18) No child witness. (5) Young child witness not interviewed.	213
23 Are there any victim/witness statements documented in the case file?	100%	20	0	4	Of the 4 N/A Scorings: (2) Unable to locate or contact victim. (2) Victim refused to cooperate.	213
24 Is there documentation of or actual recordings of victim follow-up statements in the file?	100%	16	0	8	Of the 8 N/A scorings: (6) Unable to locate or contact victim. (2) Victim refused to cooperate.	213
25 Are there documented observations of an evident crime scene in the file by the initial responding officer or the investigator.	100%	13	0	11	Of the 11 N/A scorings: (8) No evident crime scene to notate. (1) Victim relocated from the scene. (1) Delayed reporting. (1) Incident occurred at an unknown location.	213
26 Is there documentation that the responding officer(s) collected, preserved and documented evidence?	100%	13	0	11	(11) No evidence found at the scene.	213
27 Are there recordings and/or printouts of relevant voice mails, e-mails or text messages, etc. in the case file?	100%	5	0	19	(19) No relevant recordings or printouts of electronic evidence.	213
28 Are warrant applications included in the case file for investigator's cases?	100%	17	0	7	Of the 7 N/A Scorings: (4) Cleared by arrest. (3) No warrant application filed	213
29 Generally, does the documentation in the file indicate the initial investigation was an overall pro-active, victim-oriented and professional response?	100%	24	0	0	None	213
30 Generally, does the documentation in the file indicate the follow-up investigation was an overall pro-active, victim-oriented and professional response?	100%	24	0	0	None	213
31 If the officer determined there was probable cause that a crime was committed, is there documentation in the file that the case was reviewed by a DVU or SVU supervisor?	100%	24	0	0	None	213
32 If the case involves a department employee, a sworn law enforcement officer or a public figure, was appropriate action taken (notification of PIB, or if from another jurisdiction contact other jurisdiction (if they requested the information, i.e. military), documentation of the notification. Chapter 42.4.	-	0	0	24	(24) No law enforcement officer, public figure, or department employee involved in the case	212
Total	99.6%	490	2	276		

General Comments

ARU audited sampled Domestic Violence Unit case file items for a defined period, for completeness and accuracy as required by the Consent Decree.

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

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

DVS Case File Audit Results (Final)

The information below reveals the outcome of the Audit Team's 24 case file reviews.

The compliance percentage for requirements in the Domestic Violence Section Case File Checklist Audit are as follows for the reviews of **15%** of the available case files during the period targeted for audit: **159*.15 = 23.8, rounded up to 24**. The source materials for all questions are in the case file documents.

The source materials for all questions are in the case file documents. The compliance percentage for requirements in the Domestic Violence Section File Checklist Audit are as follows:

Of the 24 case files reviewed, the following **22** case files each have an overall compliance percentage of **100%** following each file's initial document review. There were no deficiencies noted for any of these case files:

Case 1 100% compliant

Gist: The male victim alleged that a known female subject attempted to strike him with a black object resembling a pipe.

Deficiencies: None

Case 2 100% compliant

Gist: The male victim alleged that he was stabbed by a known female subject (girlfriend) following a verbal altercation.

Deficiencies: None

Case 3 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that a known male subject (husband) strangled her due to declining his sexual advances.

Deficiencies: None

Case 4 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck numerous times with a closed fist by a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 5 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck several times with a bat following a verbal altercation with a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 6 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was placed in a chokehold by a known male subject (ex-boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 7 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck by a known male subject (ex-boyfriend) due to not accommodating his request to reside together.

Deficiencies: None

Case 8 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was grabbed by the neck following an altercation with a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 9 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was strangled by a known male subject following a verbal altercation.

Deficiencies: None

Case 10 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was attacked by a known subject upon returning to her home.

Deficiencies: None

Case 11 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck in the face multiple times by a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 12 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck in the face multiple times by a known female subject (girlfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 13 **100% compliant**

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck in the head by a known male subject (husband).

Deficiencies: None

Case 14 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim was allegedly struck and choked by a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 15 100% compliant

Gist: The victim alleged that a known subject attempted to run over the victim with her car.

Deficiencies: None

Case 16 100% Compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that a known male subject (boyfriend) strangled her following a verbal altercation.

Deficiencies: None

Case 17 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that a known male subject strangled her following a verbal altercation.

Deficiencies: None

Case 18 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that a known male subject strangled her, resulting in a loss of consciousness.

Deficiencies: None

Case 19 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck and strangled by a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 20 100% compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was strangled by a known male subject.

Deficiencies: None

Case 21 100% compliant

Gist: The female subject alleged that she was struck multiple times and strangled by a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: None

Case 22 100% Compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was strangled by a known male subject (husband) following a verbal altercation.

Deficiencies: None

Of the 24 case files reviewed, the following **2** case files each were found to have minor deficiencies following the initial review.

Case 23 97% Compliant

Gist: The male victim alleged that he was stabbed with a knife by a known female subject (girlfriend).

Deficiencies: **Q20, *Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?***
There is no written documentation indicating whether the people involved ever lived together.

Case 24 97% Compliant

Gist: The female victim alleged that she was struck multiple times and strangled by a known male subject (boyfriend).

Deficiencies: **Q20, *Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?***
There is no written documentation indicating whether the people involved ever lived together.

Mandated Consent Decree paragraph responses (CD 212-222)

During the audit, the Audit and Review Section corroborated to ascertain and verify the below listed information to address Consent Decree paragraphs 212 through 222 pertaining to the Domestic Violence Section:

The department Lt. reviewed the Mandated Consent Decree paragraph responses that covered (CD 212-222).

The New Orleans Police Department's Domestic Violence Section and Municipal Training Academy remains in compliance with CD Paragraphs, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 220, 221, and 222.

NOPD Chapter 42.4, Entitled: Domestic Violence, and NOPD Chapter 42.1, Entitled: Domestic Disturbance, continues to follow the best practices of the Blueprint for Safety model.

The last revision to Chapter 42.4 was January 2021, and the last revision for Chapter 42.1 was July 2018.

In October 2024, The City of New Orleans Health Department reassembled the Domestic Violence Working Group, led by Domestic Violence Programs Specialist, Jennifer Hunt.

In November 2024, the Domestic Violence MDT or Multidisciplinary Team, reconvened to review random domestic violence investigations within Orleans Parish.

Overall, the district patrol officers are maintaining compliance when conducting initial domestic violence investigations and the Domestic Violence Section continues to perform well with follow up investigations.

CD 212

NOPD agrees to delineate the respective duties of communications staff, patrol officers/first responders, District-level detectives, domestic violence detectives, and supervisors in its domestic violence policies and procedures, and agrees to provide clear and detailed guidelines for steps at each stage of NOPD's response to a report of Domestic Violence, including dispatch response; initial officer response, including entry procedures; and **on-scene and follow-up investigation.**

- **On scene and follow up investigations (NOPD Chapter 42.4 Domestic Violence, Chapter 42.4.1 Domestic Disturbance and Chapter 41.4.1 Response to Calls, Domestic Violence Standard Operating Procedures).**
- CD 212 was covered with Question 1 and Question 2 of the DVS audit checklist.

CD 213

Ensure that NOPD prioritized victim safety and protection at each stage of its response to a report of Domestic Violence. Ensure that Protocols and guidelines are up to date on best practices for on-scene and follow up investigations including:

- Identifying, locating, and interviewing suspects and witnesses
- Assessment of the crime scene

- Evidence collection, including documentation of victim injuries and seizure of weapons.

Chapters 42.4 and 42.4.1 are both policies pertaining to Domestic Violence and Domestic Disturbances. These policies were developed based on the best practices of the Blueprint for Safety model developed by Praxis International. NOPD was a pilot city for this model starting in 2013 and continues to operate in full compliance with this model. All DV investigations must be comprehensive and must be documented thoroughly to include all statements, evidence collection etc. NOPD must also document risk to the victim by asking 5 developed risk questions pertaining to any incident classified as DV. These risk assessment answers are then used to assist in predominant aggressor assessments to identify who is most at risk when determining who is the offender. They are also used in bond setting by Magistrates to hold offenders accountable for their actions. NOPD is one of the few agencies that prioritize victim safety and DV by documenting these cases this way. In all cases of intimate partner and DV, summonses are prohibited. All stakeholders, including advocacy agencies, had input in the development of the DV policy.

- These protocols and guidelines were reviewed, revised, approved, and remain current.
- CD 213 was covered with Q2-3, Q5-12, Q14, Q16-17, and Q20-31 of the DVS audit checklist.

CD 214

Ensure that NOPD discouraged dual arrests of offenders and victims by providing training on primary aggressors and require supervisory approval to effectuate a dual arrest.

NOPD does discourage dual arrest practice. This is clearly defined in Chapter 42.4 and must be approved by a supervisor. All officers were trained in this practice at the beginning of 2013. MTA will have all training records pertaining to Chapter DV 42.4 in service. Chapter 42.4 “Domestic Violence” was also covered via DTB in December 2020.

- CD 214 was covered with Q13 and Q15 of the DVS audit checklist.

CD 215 Reviewed 8/28/25 – No updated response

NOPD agrees to continue to participate in the operation, development, and sustainability of the New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC); work in co-location with other civil and criminal agencies and community-based organizations; and support a centralized, multi-agency Family Justice Center model in the handling of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cases in New Orleans.

Ensure that NOPD continues to participate in the

- Operation, development, and sustainability of the NOFJC
- Work in co-location with other civil, criminal agencies and community-based organizations,
- Support a centralized, multi-agency Family Justice Center model in handling Domestic Violence and sexual assault cases.

The Department developed a committee of representatives from the community, including rape crisis advocates, service providers, and/or legal providers to review, on a semi-annual basis (1) Domestic Violence investigation disposed of as Unfounded. (2) a random sample of open Domestic Violence investigations with the approval of the DA. The Department has agreed to ensure that feedback and recommendations from the committee are incorporated into policies, general training, remedial training for specific officers or detectives, and the decision to re-examine and re-open investigations, if

warranted.

A member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and NOFJC advised that the NOPD is actively participating with the established committees such as SART. They advised that the organizations and the NOPD discuss unfounded dispositions on a frequent basis. An Assistant District Attorney from the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office (OPDA) DVS section and is the Deputy Chief of DV/Child Abuse Screener, advised that the relationship with the NOPD DVS Section continues to work hand in hand focusing on victims and families.

CD 216 Reviewed 8/28/25 – No updated response

Ensure that NOPD has collaborated with and referred victims to NOFJC.

Per Domestic Violence Section Sergeant, every domestic violence victim is provided with a resource sheet containing all NOFJC contact information by platoon officers. In Every case handled by the Domestic Violence Section the victim is provided with a direct contact number to the advocates at the NOFJC. All of this is documented within initial and supplemental reports pertaining to victim engagement and referrals to advocates.

CD 217 Reviewed – Response updated 8/28/25

Ensure that the Superintendent or a designee at a Commander Level meet with the Executive Committee of the NOFJC on a quarterly basis. A sergeant or above attends the quarterly meetings for the purpose of reviewing and coordinating NOPD's policies on Domestic Violence.

(The designated sergeant or above shall review NOPD's policies for internal consistency and consistency with the Integrated Protocol developed by the NOFJC, the Blueprint for Safety, and to review and update policies at least annually or as necessary. The designated sergeant or above shall also be responsible for identifying training needs with respect to implementing NOPD Domestic Violence policies, the Integrated Protocol and/or the Blueprint for safety.)

The section Sgt. attends the NOFJC Quarterly Meeting pertaining to update and policy revisions with the Blueprint Interagency Coordinator and the NOFJC. Per the Sgt., the NOFJC meeting has yet to occur for the year 2025.

CD 218, 219, 220, 221, Training related

CD 218

Ensure that the adequate amount of manpower is assigned to the DVS at the NOFJC (sufficient detectives based on the number of calls for service).

- To ensure that detectives can review, on a weekly basis, District-level reports on incidents of Domestic Violence for the purpose of identifying training needs and tracking Districts' response to DV.
- Have sufficient staff to conduct an appropriate follow up investigation into felony offenses (weapon involved or serious bodily injury) including coordination with the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit.

As of 2025, DV manpower is 1 supervisor and 3 detectives. The Domestic Violence Section can operate with the allocated manpower. A sergeant personally reviews every DV case from the previous 24 hours based on information supplied by the Repo within NOPD Applications. Each case is triaged and assigned

accordingly to a DV investigator to conduct additional follow up to obtain necessary information so it can be successfully screened by the DV Screener. This is all about continued victim engagement.

In any typical year the DV Section will be assigned approximately 400 follow up/initial cases to be completed. However, the DV Section will exceed that number in 2025, having already been assigned 597 cases as of August of 2025. Increases in numbers occur if STOP Grant funds are not allocated to provide overtime for additional cases to be worked on by the section.

CD 219 Reviewed – No updated response 9/2/25

Ensure that NOPD offered training in best practices including IACP recommendations and annual updates to reflect changes in policy, law and developments in research and best practice. This can be verified through the yearly policy update review conducted by the Policy Review Section.

Per an Innovation Manager, and Sergeant of the Policy and Review Section, The DV supervisors meet with and work regularly with the partners at the New Orleans Family Justice Center. A comprehensive review and revision of forms for DV disturbances was conducted and led by Jocelyn Pinkerton, LCSW-BACS Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program Director City of New Orleans Health Department and a revision of forms was presented to the NOPD on 12/06/2024 and distributed along with revised DV training and checklists department-wide to coincide with the updates.

CD 220 Reviewed – No updated response 8/27/25

Ensure that NOPD provides at least 4 hours of initial training on DV for all officers, and ongoing annual In-service training by checking training records.

Ensure that NOPD has incorporated fact-based scenarios involving DV into recruit and in-service training.

Topics:

- General investigation
- Crime scene preservation
- Report writing
- Policies and procedures (including the Integral Protocol and/or Blueprint for Safety)
- Dynamics of domestic violence
- Identifying the primary aggressor
- Responding to and investigating strangulation in the context of domestic violence
- Interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects
- Report writing
- Discovery

Per the Academy Training Director, the 2025 Annual Master Training Plan includes 32 hours of Domestic Violence training for recruits which complies with the stated requirements in CD 220.

The 2025 Officer and Supervisor In-Service program includes the following course(s):

Domestic Violence and Children (CD Paragraphs 220,191) - 1.5 Hours

This course will include a PBL activity in the recognition and support of children who are exposed to increased levels of trauma on a domestic violence scene. Officers must comprehend the aspects of children on a DV scene and identify "child endangerment".

When sufficient threshold indicators are present, officers should notify the Dept. of Family Services of a child who is in danger or experiencing substantial harm. Officers are allowed to fully interview children on a DV scene when the incident does not involve child abuse. As they are considered witnesses, no parental attendance is required. The scenario training for this child interview will demonstrate how to relate and incorporate open-ended questions.

“Trauma Informed Interventions for Children Exposed to Violence” On-line Computer Based Training Course - City of New Orleans Health Department - 1 Hour

This course provides officers with the skills needed to build trust with and effectively interview children who are at the scene of a domestic violence call.

CD 221 Reviewed 8/27/25 – No updated response

Ensure that DV Detectives have no fewer than 32 hours of initial training and ongoing annual In-service training. This can be verified through the Education and Training Division (SABA)

Training shall include advanced:

- Skills based instruction in evidence collection
- Victim assistance
- Interviewing, including taped mock victim interviews
- Other topics

All members of the DVS have obtained at least 32 hours of specialized training in interview and interrogation and very specific training pertaining to DV. These classes were not offered by NOPD, but all investigators possess certificates that were validated by Consent Decree Monitors during initial DOJ audits. They do not receive annual additional 32 hours of DV Training. This was modified for all investigative sections after obtaining the initial portion of the courses to be assigned to an investigative section. All other ongoing classes offered by NOPD are tracked within the old Power-DMS system and new SABA system, to include annual Detective In-service.

CD 222 Reviewed – Response updated 8/27/25

Ensure that NOPD tracked dispositions of DV investigations including:

- Arrests: acceptance and refusal rates
- Dismissed cases
- Plea agreement (s)
- Tried
- Final Verdict, including taped mock victim interviews
- Other topics

Matthew Segraves, PSAB Innovation manager, tracks all dispositions and DA's Office information. According to Matthew Segraves, this information is gathered and located in the DV annual reports. The 2024 DV Annual DV Report is the most recent available and has the following:

Arrests (1,919)

D.A. Refused Cases (2,058). (7) were refused due to NOPD actions.

Defendants plead to DV charges (228)

Tried (25) – (17) were found not guilty by a judge. (3) were found not guilty by a jury. (2) were found guilty by a judge. (1) was found guilty of a lessor offense by a judge. (1) was found guilty of a lessor offense by a jury. (0) was found guilty as charged by a jury. (1) was dismissed by a judge

Overall Compliance Score (Final)

Based on the combined total of the seven hundred and sixty-eight (**768**) checklist items rated from the sample size of twenty-four (**24**) case files audited, the “**overall score**” of the August 2025 audit conducted by the Auditing Review Section was **99.6%**.

Conclusion (Final)

Results

The overall results of the August 2025 Domestic Violence Section case file audit, of the October 2024- March 2025 data, revealed a compliance threshold of **99.6%**. Of the thirty-two (32) checklist items, one fell below the 95% threshold:

- **Q20, *Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?* (92%)**

Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided to address the identified gap in documentation regarding whether the parties involved lived together:

1. Clarify Cohabitation Status in Reports
 - a. Ensure officers/detectives explicitly document whether the involved parties live together, previously lived together, or never lived together.
2. Supervisory Review
 - a. Supervisors should verify cohabitation status is documented before approving reports and address deficiencies with corrective feedback.

Section Response to Recommendations

The section Sgt., on behalf of Lt. Celious, has reviewed and noted the recommendations of the PSAB Audit Team. Lt. Celious will ensure that Domestic Violence Supervisors review their detectives’ case files more thoroughly to confirm all relevant documents are included. While the supervisors have been performing well by conducting internal audits, there is still the possibility of overlooking certain items. In addition, Lt. Celious will require detectives to clearly document the victim’s living arrangements with the accused during follow-up investigations.

Domestic Violence Section Responses to PSAB Notes:

Unit Overall Response: There is no written documentation indicating whether the people involved ever lived together.

Case 1

Deficiency: Q20. Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?

Response: Under the NOPD item, in the initial report by the officer, he documented that the suspect and victim's home address was the same. It was identified as the residence and location of occurrence. The officer also stated that the victim was losing his ability to speak [due to a punctured lung], so his interview, including the risk questions, was incomplete. The detective conducted a follow-up interview with the victim, who refused to cooperate and answer any questions. He also wanted to refuse charges against the suspect.

The officer identifying the home address of the suspect and victim as the same is a clear indication that they both share the same domicile. However, the victim refused to answer questions during the detective follow-up and did not cooperate further with the investigation; therefore, the living status of the suspect and victim at the time of the report was not documented in the follow-up investigation.

PSAB Response: No changes required

Case 2

Deficiency: Q20. Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?

Response: Under the NOPD item, in the initial report, the officer documented that the suspect and victim had been dating for two months [by law, they are considered dating partners]. The officer documented the victim's home address as different from the suspect's address, confirming they did not live together. Accordingly, all charges against the suspect were filed as dating partner offenses: battery of a dating partner, battery of a dating partner (strangulation), battery of a dating partner (child endangerment), and battery of a dating partner (victim was three months pregnant at the time of the incident).

By documenting separate addresses, identifying the victim and suspect as dating, and applying dating partner charges in the arrest warrant, the officer properly classified the case in accordance with the legal definition. Under the law, dating partners are individuals who are in a relationship, intimate or otherwise, who have never lived together. This definition applies even if the abuse occurs on the first date. If the victim states they were in a relationship or dating and never lived with the offender, the incident is classified as dating violence. Casual, one-time encounters do not qualify. Importantly, the victim's word determines the classification, and even former dating partners may fall under this statute due to prior relationship history.

PSAB Response: No changes required

ARU Attachments: Excel Raw Data Spreadsheets for August 2025.

Timothy A. Lindsey

**Innovation Manager, Auditing
Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau**

Jovan M. Berry

**Auditor
Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau**

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

DVS CASE FILE CHECKLIST

Item Number: _____

Auditor: _____

Date: _____

NA = Not Applicable

Y = Compliant

N = Not compliant/No

U = Unknown

1. Is there an incident report in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
2. Is there documentation that the investigator reviewed body worn camera footage if the incident report indicates a BWC recording would aid in the follow-up investigation?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
3. Is there documentation that either patrol or the investigator documented interviews by written or audio recorded statements, or by BWC?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
4. Does the file indicate that patrol handled most of the case and therefore some documentation would be included elsewhere (statements, photographic evidence, evidence receipts)?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
5. Is there documentation that the investigator contacted the victim within one week of the DV incident, or within a reasonable period based on the circumstances?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
6. Is there documentation that the investigator located or attempted to locate the victim through various means (neighbors, employment, Advocate resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
7. Do the actual charges support the elements of the crime?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
8. Is there documentation reflective of "continuing engagement" with the victim?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
9. Is there documentation in the file of the offender's "criminal history" or a "past history" check by either patrol or the investigator?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
10. Is there a victim Risk Assessment documented by patrol?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
11. If a Risk Assessment was not indicated in the patrol officer's incident report or was insufficient, did the investigator probe for details regarding the Risk Assessment, or conduct a documented Risk Assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
12. If there is documented evidence of potential victim risk, did the officer or investigator initiate follow-up action or document safety and/or protection advice?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
13. Does the file include documentation of a predominant aggressor assessment by patrol or the investigator?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
14. Is photographic evidence indicated in the case file by either patrol officers or the case follow-up investigator?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
15. If a dual arrest was made, is there documentation of supervisory approval?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
16. If injury is indicated, is there a copy of a medical records release form in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
17. Are there copies of a Protection Order and/or TRO in the case file?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
18. Does the case file have documentation of a victim referral to the NOFJC?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
19. Is there documentation that the victim was provided with a Form #45 and Rights of Crime Victims brochure?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
20. Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
21. Did the officer or investigator document if the victim had difficulty breathing or a loss of consciousness to support DV strangulation charges?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
22. Did the officer or investigator document an attempt to have child witnesses of DV forensically interviewed?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
23. Are there any victim/witness statements documented in the case file?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U

24. Is there documentation of or actual recordings of victim follow-up statements in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
25. Are there documented observations of an <u>evident</u> crime scene in the file by the initial responding officer or the investigator if patrol did not initiate the investigation?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
26. Is there documentation that the responding officer(s) collected, preserved, and documented evidence?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
27. Are there recordings and/or printouts of relevant voice mails, e-mails, or text messages, etc. in the case file?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
28. Are warrant applications included in the case file for <u>investigator's</u> cases?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
29. Generally, does the documentation in the file indicate the initial investigation was an overall pro-active, victim-oriented, and professional response?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
30. Generally, does the documentation in the file indicate the follow-up investigation was an overall pro-active, victim-oriented, and professional response?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
31. If the officer determined there was probable cause that a crime was committed, is there documentation in the file that the case was reviewed by a DVS or SVU supervisor?	<input type="checkbox"/> NA / <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U
32. If the case involves a department employee, a sworn law enforcement officer or a public figure, appropriate action taken (notification of PIB, or if from another jurisdiction contact other jurisdiction (If they requested the information, i.e., military), documentation of the notification. Chapter 42.4. If any employee of a law enforcement is placed out wanted or arrested use these Chapters 1.4, 1.17, 1.18 and 1.22.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA/ <input type="checkbox"/> Y / <input type="checkbox"/> N / <input type="checkbox"/> U

Explain in the narrative below whether there were any exceptional strategies used by the initial officer or investigator or any deficiencies noted in the case investigation by auditors.

Appendix C -Report Distribution

Superintendent, NOPD

Asst. Superintendent, NOPD

Deputy Supt. PSAB Bureau

Captain PSAB Bureau

Deputy Supt. ISB Bureau

Captain ISB Bureau (CID)

Lieutenant SVD

Audit & Review Section - PSAB