



Audit and Review Section  
Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

# Domestic Violence Unit Audit February 2025 Report

Report #: DVU022025

Review Period: April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

Submitted by PSAB: March 12, 2025

Response from Sex Crimes: March 21, 2025

Final Report: March 24, 2025

## Audit Team

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

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## ***Executive Summary***

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The Audit and Review Section (ARS) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau conducted a Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) Checklist Audit in February 2024. DVU checklist audits ensure that the Domestic Violence Unit 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 DVU 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 February 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 four” **(704)** checklist items rated from the sample size of twenty-two **(22)** case files audited, the **“overall score”** of this Domestic Violence Unit case file audit conducted by the Audit and Review Section was **100.0%**.

The scorecard for the Domestic Violence Unit 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 **(32)** scored as compliant.

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

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## ***Introduction***

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The Audit and Review Section of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau audited the Domestic Violence Unit's investigation case files, covering the period of October 2023 to March 2024; The audit occurred from February 17, 2025, through February 21, 2025, and was completed as a single review.

### **Purpose**

The Domestic Violence Unit 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 Unit 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 Unit 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 Unit investigations in the future.

### **Methodology**

Population size – the Domestic Violence Unit only.

Sample size –The selected sample size is a randomized selection of 15% of the total case files as mandated by the DVU 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 Unit (ARS) to give a reliable and thorough review of each case file.

### **Data**

The audit range is every six months; the Domestic Violence Unit, upon request, will provide the Innovation Manager of the Audit and Review Unit, or the Captain within PSAB, all item numbers during the audit range period. The Audit and Review Unit will then use Excel (Rand function) to randomize review cases. Afterward, the Audit and Review Unit will review a population of at least **15%** of those cases within the audit range. From the current population, **15%**, or twenty-two (**22**) case files were selected via a randomizer system from 146 files taken in by the Domestic Violence Unit from April 2024 to September 2024.

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## *Initiating and Conducting the Domestic Violence Audit*

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The lead auditor of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) initially contacted the Lieutenant, Commander of the DVU, and the Sergeant of the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU), on January 30, 2025, to request the case file list for the review period involved. On February 4, 2025, the DV Unit received the sample list of case files PSAB planned to audit and to notify them of a scheduled Domestic Violence Unit case file audit that would be initiated by the Audit and Review Section (ARS), starting February 17, 2025, and concluding February 21, 2025.

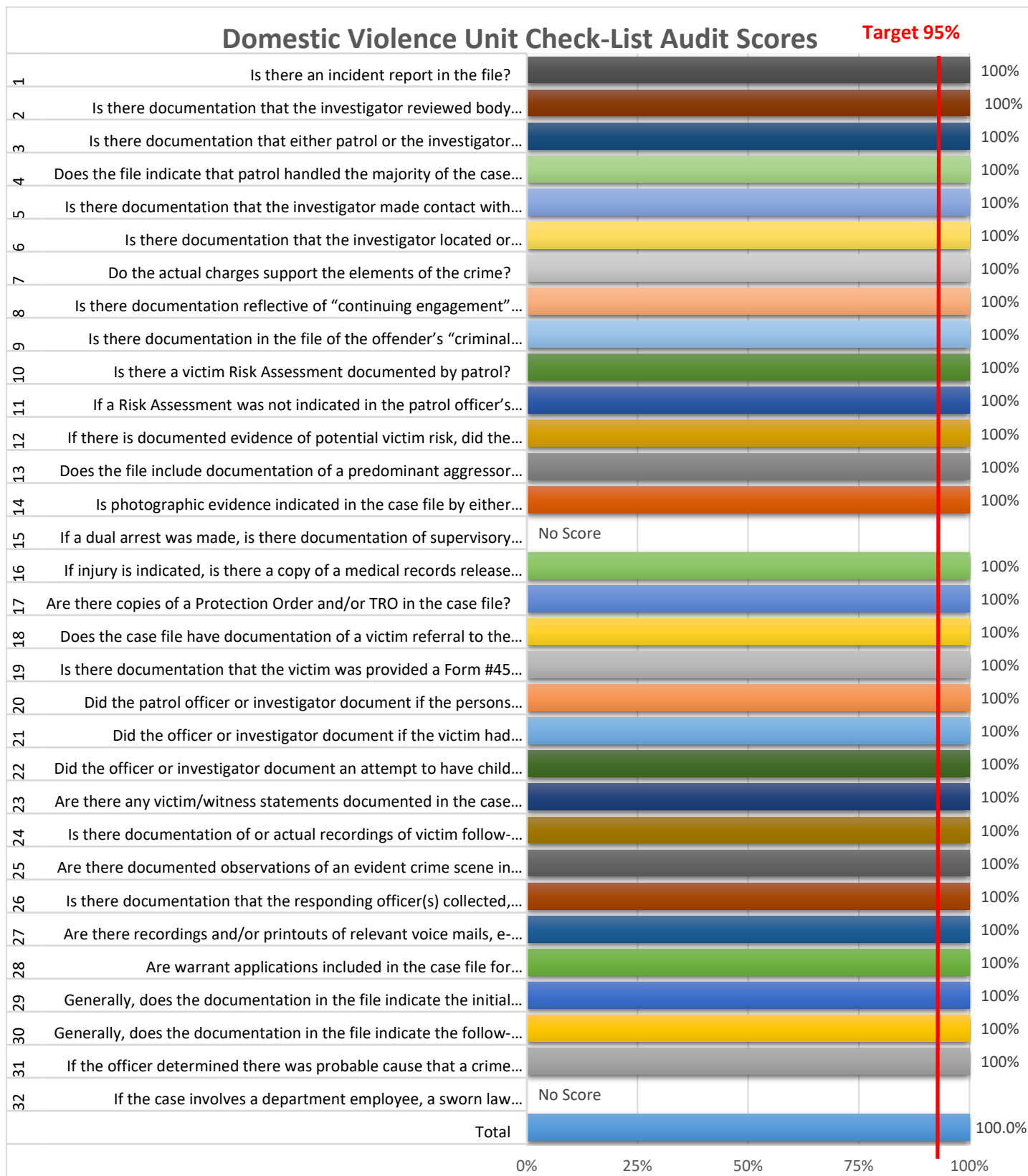
The Lieutenant was provided with this advanced notice to ensure a DVU supervisor was on standby to provide the requested case files to the Audit and Review Section upon demand. The Lieutenant received the thirty-two-point checklist in addition to the audit protocol.

During this audit, the ARS requested and received the twenty-two **(22)** case files from the on-duty DVU 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 DVU.

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 DVU 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.

**Total: 22 Case Files (single review)**

## Domestic Violence Unit Scorecards



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

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

Data Range: Apr. 2024 - Sept. 2024

Period: February 2025

Check-List Questions		Score	CD #	Y	N	NA	NA Explanations
1	Is there an incident report in the file?	100%	212	22	0	0	None
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%	213	20	0	2	(2) BWC not reviewed due to NOFJC handling the case.
3	Is there documentation that either patrol or the investigator documented interviews by written or audio recorded statements, or by BWC?	100%	213	22	0	0	None
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%	212	15	0	7	(7) Investigator handled majority of the case
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%	213	13	0	9	Of the 9 N/A scorings: (1) Detective indicated all pertinent information was gathered in the initial report.(5) Detective unable to locate the victim. (1) Case handled by patrol.(2) Case handled and referred by NOFJC.
6	Is there documentation that the investigator located or attempted to locate the victim through various means (neighbors, employment, Advocate resources)?	100%	213	14	0	8	Of the 8 N/A scorings: (1) Detective indicated all pertinent information was gathered in the initial report.(2) Victim was contacted via phone but refused to cooperate with investigation. (1) Case handled by patrol.(2) Case handled and referred by NOFJC. (2) No contact information for the victim.
7	Do the actual charges support the elements of the crime?	100%	213	21	0	1	(1) Subject was not charged with a crime due to insufficient evidence.
8	Is there documentation reflective of "continuing engagement" with the victim?	100%	213	13	0	9	Of the 9 N/A Scorings: (1) Case was closed by warrant. (6) Cleared by arrest. (1) All pertinent information collected in the initial report. (1) no contact information listed for the victim.
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%	213	21	0	1	(1) Insufficient information for subject. The subject's date of birth was not provided.
10	Is there a victim Risk Assessment documented by patrol?	100%	213	19	0	3	Of the 3 N/A scorings: (2) victim refused to answer the risk questions. (1) Risk assessment was not conducted due to the officer's inability to determine the primary aggressor.
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?	100%	213	2	0	20	Of the 20 N/A scorings: (17) Patrol conducted the risk assessment. (1) Victim refused to cooperate with the investigation. (1) Victim not located. (1) No follow-up conducted.
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%	213	19	0	3	(3) There was no documentation of a potential victim risk
13	Does the file include documentation of a predominant aggressor assessment by patrol or the investigator?	100%	214	20	0	2	(2) No predominant aggressor was identified.
14	Is photographic evidence indicated in the case file by either patrol officers or the case follow-up investigator?	100%	213	7	0	15	Of the 14 N/A scorings: (10) Victim had no visible injuries. (1)Victim left AMA prior to officer's arrival. (3) Injury captured via BWC.
15	If a dual arrest was made, is there documentation of supervisory approval?	-	214	0	0	22	Of the 22 N/A scorings: (20) No dual arrest occurred. (2) No arrest made at the scene.
16	If injury is indicated, is there a copy of a medical records release form in the file?	100%	213	14	0	8	Of the 8 N/A scorings: (5) The victim refused medical attention. (2) No injury indicated. (1) Victim refused to cooperate with the investigation.
17	Are there copies of a Protection Order and/or TRO in the case file?	100%	213	2	0	20	(20) No Protection Order or TRO involved in the case.
18	Does the case file have documentation of a victim referral to the NOFJC?	100%	216	18	0	4	Of the 4 N/A scorings: (1) Victim is currently a client at NOFJC. (1) Victim initially considered the aggressor. (1) Victim unwilling to cooperate with the investigation. (1) Victim not located.
19	Is there documentation that the victim was provided a Form #45 and Rights of Crime Victims brochures?	100%	216	18	0	4	Of the 4 N/A scorings: (1) Victim is currently a client at NOFJC. (1) Victim initially considered the aggressor. (1) Victim unwilling to cooperate with the investigation. (1) Victim not located.
20	Did the patrol officer or investigator document if the persons ever lived together?	100%	213	21	0	1	(1) Persons involved in the case were homeless.
21	Did the officer or investigator document if the victim had difficulty breathing or a loss of consciousness to support DV strangulation charges?	100%	213	10	0	12	(12) No strangulation reported.
22	Did the officer or investigator document an attempt to have child witnesses of DV forensically interviewed?	100%	213	1	0	21	Of the 21 N/A scorings: (18) There were no child witnesses to the event. (2) Child witness was not located for an interview. (1) Child witness is unable to participate in an interview due to age.
23	Are there any victim/witness statements documented in the case file?	100%	213	22	0	0	None
24	Is there documentation of or actual recordings of victim follow-up statements in the file?	100%	213	14	0	8	Of the 8 N/A scorings: (1) Detective indicated that allpertinent information was gathered in the initial report. (4) Detective unable to locate the victim. (1) Victim refused to cooperate with the investigation. (1) Patrol handled majority of the investigation. (1) Victim and aggressor were not identified.
25	Are there documented observations of an <u>evident</u> crime scene in the file by the initial responding officer or the investigator.	100%	213	16	0	6	Of the 6 N/A scorings: (1) Incident did not occur on the day it was reported. (5) No evident crime scene to notate.
26	Is there documentation that the responding officer(s) collected, preserved and documented evidence?	100%	213	15	0	7	(6) No evidence found at the scene.
27	Are there recordings and/or printouts of relevant voice mails, e-mails or text messages, etc. in the case file?	100%	213	8	0	14	(14) No relevant recordings or printouts of electronic evidence.
28	Are warrant applications included in the case file for investigator's cases?	100%	213	12	0	10	(4) No warrant application filed. (6) Cleared by arrest.
29	Generally, does the documentation in the file indicate the <b>initial</b> investigation was an overall pro-active, victim-oriented and professional response?	100%	213	22	0	0	None
30	Generally, does the documentation in the file indicate the <b>follow-up</b> investigation was an overall pro-active, victim-oriented and professional response?	100%	213	21	0	1	(1) No follow-up investigation occurred
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%	213	21	0	1	(1) Due to insufficient evidence, the subject was not charged with a crime.
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.	-	212	0	0	22	(22) No law enforcement officer, public figure, or department employee involved in the case
Total		100.0%		463	0	241	

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## ***DVU Case File Audit Results (Final)***

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**The below-listed information reveals the outcome of the Audit Team's 22 case file reviews.**

The compliance percentage for requirements in the Domestic Violence Unit Case File Checklist Audit are as follows for the reviews of **15%** of the available case files during the period targeted for audit: **146\*.15 = 21.9, rounded up to 22**. 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 Unit File Checklist Audit are as follows:

Of the 22 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:

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled and struck with an open fist by a known male subject (boyfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** Female victim alleged that a known male subject (ex-boyfriend) assaulted her with a firearm.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled and physically assaulted with a firearm by a known male subject (ex-boyfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled by her boyfriend.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled and struck in the head by a known female subject (ex-girlfriend).



**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly chased by a known subject (boyfriend) while operating a golf cart. The subject was driving a vehicle during the chase.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

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

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly struck with an open and closed fist by a known male subject.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled by her boyfriend.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly injured by gunfire by a known male subject (boyfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

**F100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly struck with a closed fist multiple times by a known male subject (boyfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

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

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly struck multiple times in the face by a known male subject (husband).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim alleged that a known male subject strangled and struck her with a closed fist.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled by a known male subject (boyfriend) and lost consciousness.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The male victim was struck several times by a known male subject (fiancé).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim alleged that a known male subject (boyfriend) assaulted her by way of strangulation and kicking.

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

**Gist:** The female victim was allegedly strangled by a known male subject (boyfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

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

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% compliant**

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

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% Compliant**

**Gist:** Female victim alleged that she was assaulted by a known male subject (ex-boyfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

**100% Compliant**

**Gist:** The male victim was allegedly battered by cutting by a known female subject (girlfriend).

**Deficiencies:** None

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## ***Mandated Consent Decree paragraph responses (CD 212-222)***

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

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

**The New Orleans Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit 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 Unit 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 DVU 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 DVU 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 DVU audit checklist.

#### **CD 215 Reviewed 2/28/25 – 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.**

**Ms. Ariane Bell, who is 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. Ms. Bell advised that the organizations and the NOPD discuss unfounded dispositions on a frequent basis. Ms. Bridget Collins, who is an Assistant District Attorney from the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office (OPDA) DVU section is the Deputy Chief of DV/Child Abuse Screener, advised that the relationship with the NOPD DVU Section continues to work hand in hand focusing on victims and families.**

**CD 216 Reviewed 2/28/25 – No updated response**

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

**Per Domestic Violence Unit Sergeant Tyra Pruitt, 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 Unit 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 2/25/25**

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.)

**Sgt. Tyra Pruitt attends the NOFJC Quarterly Meeting pertaining to update and policy revisions with the Blueprint Interagency Coordinator and the NOFJC.**

**CD 218, 219, 220, 221, Training related**

**CD 218**

Ensure that the adequate amount of manpower is assigned to the DVU 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.

**Since 2011 DV manpower has remained as 1 supervisor and 4 detectives. The Domestic Violence Unit can operate with the allocated manpower. Sergeant Pruitt 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 Unit will be assigned approximately 400 follow up/initial cases to be completed.**

**This number will increase if STOP Grant funds are not allocated to provide overtime for additional cases to be worked on by the unit.**

**CD 219 Reviewed – Response updated 2/28/25**

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 Michael Pfeiffer, Innovation Manager, and Sergeant David Barnes 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 – Response updated 2/27/25**

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 Duane Johnson, 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 2/27/25 – 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 DVU 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 CDM Mary Ann Viverette during initial DOJ audits. They do not receive annual additional 32 hours of DV Training. This was modified for all investigative units after obtaining the initial portion of the courses to be assigned to an investigative unit. 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 2/27/25**

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 Report has not been published. The 2023 DV Annual DV Report is the most recent available and has the following:**

**Arrests (1,911)**

**D.A. Refused Cases (1,848). (7) were refused due to NOPD actions.**

**Defendants plead to DV charges (273)**

**Tried (39) – (21) were found not guilty by a judge. (10) were found not guilty by a jury. (4) 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. (1) was found guilty as charged by a jury. (1) was dismissed by a judge**



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## ***Overall Compliance Score (Final)***

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Based on the combined total of the seven hundred and four (**704**) checklist items rated from the sample size of twenty-two (**22**) case files audited, the “**overall score**” of the February 2025 audit conducted by the Auditing Review Unit was **100.0%**.

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## ***Conclusion (Final)***

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### **Results**

The overall results of the February 2025 Domestic Violence Unit case file audit, of the April 2024- September 2024 data, revealed a compliance threshold of **100.0%**. Of the thirty-two (32) checklist items, there were none that fell below the 95% threshold.

### **Recommendations**

The ARS has no recommendations since no deficiencies were identified.

### **Unit Response to Recommendations**

The Lieutenant has reviewed and noted the recommendations from the PSAB Audit Team.

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## ***Domestic Violence Unit Responses to PSAB Notes:***

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### **Unit Response:**

**Deficiencies:** Q 14. Is photographic evidence indicated in the case file by either patrol officers or the case follow-up investigator?

**Response:** Under item, the suspect was arrested on-scene. Officers arrived and apprehended the suspect. The victim was observed on-scene with an injury to her hand that she stated was self-inflicted. Detective noted in her report that upon meeting with the victim during her follow-up investigation, the victim's injury was not photographed because it was already bandaged; however, the district officers captured the victim's self-inflicted injuries via BWC.

### **PSAB Response:**

Upon review, the ARS determined that photographic evidence is not applicable due to the injury being self-inflicted. Score changed from "No" to "N/A".

### **Unit Response:**

**Deficiencies:** Q 26. Is there documentation that the responding officer(s) collected, preserved, and documented evidence?

**Response:** Under item, the suspect was arrested on-scene. Officers arrived and searched the surrounding location and found the suspect on abandoned property. On-scene officers conducted a search on the suspect and did not locate a weapon. The initial crime scene was processed by Crime Lab; however, that was not documented in either report.

### **PSAB Response:**

After review, the ARS concluded that collecting evidence was not applicable to this case because the officers did not locate the weapon. Score changed from "No" to "N/A".

**RS Attachments:** Excel Raw Data Spreadsheets for February 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.

**DVU 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 <b>initial</b> 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 <b>follow-up</b> 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 DVU 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.

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## ***Appendix C -Report Distribution***

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Deputy Supt. PSAB Bureau

Captain PSAB Bureau

Deputy Supt. ISB Bureau

Captain ISB Bureau (CID)

Lieutenant SVS Unit

ARS Unit