Interviews of Crime Victims

Eff. Date 03/04/2016

Purpose

The Madison Police Department (MPD) believes that the rights of victims should be protected. Wisconsin State Statute 950.02 (a) 1. in part, defines a victim as "a person against whom a crime has been committed."

Procedure

MPD employees should exercise the following principles in regard to victims.

- Respond equally, respectfully, and compassionately to all victims/witnesses.
- Protect victims/witnesses from further victimization to the extent possible.
- Prior to, or following, an interview refer victims to crisis and support services as soon as possible after victimization.
- Complete interviews in an ethical and fair manner while following legal and constitutional guidelines.
- Treat all those interviewed with respect and dignity.
- Remain patient and open minded while listening to victim/witness account.
- Utilize terminology appropriate to victim/witnesses age, sophistication, and intelligence level.
- Officers shall make every effort to provide appropriate interpretive services when interviewing crime victims with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).
- Protect the confidentiality of the victim/witness information in as much as possible by law and procedure.
- The duration of interviews will be generally dictated by the needs of the investigation. In reference to the duration, consideration should be given to such things as victim/witness fatigue, psychological trauma, medical needs, and victim advocacy rights.
- When dealing with crime victims, investigative techniques involving trickery and/or deception shall be utilized as a last resort when the integrity of the allegations is in serious doubt. That doubt may stem from investigative information provided from varied sources including victim statements, witness statements, suspect statements and forensic evidence.

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