



City of Anaheim
POLICE DEPARTMENT

August 22, 2012

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Honorable Thomas J. Borris:

The Anaheim Police Department has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report, "Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm". We agree with the Orange County Grand Jury findings, specifically, "Finding 3" on Page 13 of the report regarding improvement that should take place county wide in recognizing elder abuse.

"Recommendation 5" on Page 14 states Orange County police departments should evaluate and update their programs on responding to elder abuse cases. The Anaheim Police Department has implemented this recommendation and a summary of the implemented actions are listed below.

The City of Anaheim and the Anaheim Police Department, with my direction and support, opened the Anaheim Family Justice Center (AFJC) in 2006. The AFJC is a co-located center that houses as many resources as possible to effectively and efficiently provide services for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and elder/dependant adult abuse. By employing a multi-disciplinary intervention approach, the AFJC is an innovative way to empower victims and enhance the delivery of crime services for victims.

Listed below are the collaborations and coordinated efforts of the Anaheim Police Department and the AFJC to specifically address the issues surrounding elder/dependant adult abuse in Anaheim, Orange County and nationwide:

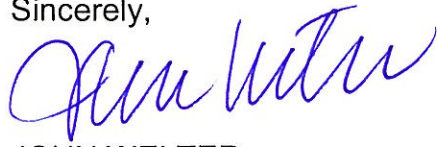
- The Anaheim Police Department has detectives in the Family Protection Detail assigned to investigate cases of elder abuse.
- Orange County Adult Protective Services is an on-site partner at the AFJC.

- The Anaheim Police Department has built a strong partnership with Orange County Adult Protective Services. We work together on a daily basis sharing information and coordinating our efforts in dealing with elder/dependant adult abuse reports.
- Detectives and Adult Protective Services provided training for all patrol officers. This training covered recognizing the symptoms of Alzheimer's and provided additional resources available to assist patrol officers in dealing with the elderly.
- One of our detectives, a national speaker and trainer on elder abuse, partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime to create a training video for officers nationwide. The video, "Responding to Elder Abuse, What Law Enforcement Should Know," covered recognition of elder abuse and patrol officer response.
- The Anaheim Police Department hosts and instructs Elder Abuse Training for Law Enforcement twice a year. We have conducted six of these trainings and will continue to do so twice a year. This sixteen hour training, in collaboration with the Council on Aging, Human Options, and the Anaheim City Attorney, is made possible through a grant received by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The training is certified through POST (California Police Officer Standards and Training).
- From 2007-2010, we assisted and participated in Elder Abuse Investigation training which provided extensive criminal investigations techniques for detectives and officers in Orange County. This was a collaboration of the Anaheim Police Department and the University of California Irvine's Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse.
- Anaheim Police Department detectives provided training for the Orange County Coroner investigators and patrol officers statewide in elder abuse investigation.
- The Anaheim Police Department is currently partnered with the University of California Irvine, Elder Abuse Forensic Center. The Forensic Center is a collaboration with UCI geriatricians, psychologists, Orange County Adult Protective Services, Ombudsman, Council on Aging, Orange County Public Guardian, Orange County Older Adult Services, Orange County District Attorney's Office, Human Options, Orange County Legal Aid, and other local law enforcement agencies. Working together during this weekly meeting, we resolve issues and provide the best possible solution for specific cases involving elder/dependant adult abuse.
- The Anaheim Police Department is a member of the Elder Death Review Team. We partner with the Orange County Coroner's Office and University of California Irvine geriatricians to examine suspicious deaths. The goal of this partnership is to determine best practices and education regarding the investigation and recognition of elder/dependant adult abuse.

- The Anaheim Police Department has provided and continues to provide training for nurses and hospice workers regarding elder/dependant adult abuse.
- The Anaheim Police Department and the AFJC partner with Ageless Alliance and hosts the group's meetings. Ageless Alliance is an outreach and education team that is nationally recognized in the work they do in education and reporting of elder/dependant adult abuse. The group's efforts and work are being replicated nationwide.
- In 2012, the Anaheim Police Department began training in long-term care facilities for staff and residents regarding education and reporting of elder/dependant adult abuse.
- The Anaheim Police Department developed a streamlined system for mandated reporters in long-term care facilities to FAX suspected reports of elder/dependant adult abuse to the AFJC.
- The Anaheim Police Department has provided training since 2010 to the volunteer Ombudsman Program through the Council on Aging regarding recognition and education about elder/dependant adult abuse.
- Community Services Program employees, an on-site partner at the AFJC, assist elders and dependant adults in obtaining restraining orders.
- Human Options, an on-site partner at the AFJC, provides shelter services, counseling, and restraining order assistance for elders and dependant adults.
- Anaheim Police Department victim advocates at the AFJC provide crisis counseling and safety plans for victims of elder/dependant adult abuse.
- The Anaheim City Attorney's office is an on-site partner at the AFJC. The collaboration with Anaheim Police Department detectives has resulted in a 90% conviction rate in cases involving elder/dependant adult abuse.
- Anaheim Police Department detectives collaborated with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in creating the PBS video "Elder Abuse-Inside E-Street." The video educates the public regarding signs of elder/dependant adult abuse, the different classifications of elder/dependant adult abuse, its prevalence, and methods of reporting.
- The Anaheim Police Department has provided training for the Anaheim Religious Community Council (ARCC) regarding elder/dependant adult abuse.
- An Anaheim Police Department detective was invited to the Department of Justice, Federal Law Enforcement Center through the Violence Against Women Act. The detective was involved in the review and curriculum update regarding elder/dependant adult abuse that is disseminated nationwide.

The Anaheim Police Department remains committed to the prevention, education, and investigation of elder/dependant adult abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Welter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Welter" clearly distinguishable.

JOHN WELTER
CHIEF OF POLICE