

December 17, 2012

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

Dear Judge Borris:

RE: Response and recommendations to Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm.

The Orange County Grand Jury produced a report entitled, "Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm." In the Grand Jury report, the La Palma Police Department was specifically requested, pursuant to Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b), to respond to one finding (finding F3) and one recommendation (recommendation R5). Below are the responses to the finding and recommendation mentioned in the Grand Jury report.

FINDINGS:

- *Reviewing procedures in law enforcement agencies, law enforcement academies under Orange County government jurisdiction and the District Attorney's officer would improve recognition of elder abuse. (Finding F3).*

RESPONSE: (For Finding F3)

Currently, the La Palma Police Department has a Policy (Number 326) which describes how officers are to report and respond to suspected elder abuse. The policy provides guidelines and procedures for reporting suspected elder abuse.

The La Palma Police Department would welcome an enhanced protocol or procedures for improving the way we respond to victims of elder abuse. To develop a working relationship with Protective Services Agency personnel would be a benefit and an added resource when dealing with potentially difficult and complex elder abuse investigations. Currently, La Palma Police Department's policies are reviewed on an annual basis to include any mandated or recommended changes regarding response to Elder (Adult) Abuse.

RECOMMENDATION:


- *By December 31, 2012, the Sheriff's Department and city police departments should evaluate and update their programs on responding to elder abuse cases. (Recommendation R5)*

RESPONSE:

The La Palma Police Department is a customer of Lexipol, who provides a law enforcement policy manual which includes federal and state mandates as well as best practices. Recently, we received a draft of the recommended changes to our current policy 326-Elder Abuse. The changes are strongly recommend by Lexipol and will be implemented on January 1, 2013.

The La Palma Police Department agrees with the recommendation and has implemented annually evaluations and reviews of our Elder Abuse policy.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric R. Nuñez
CHIEF OF POLICE