



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA**

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June 6, 2006

The Honorable Judge Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report: "Improving Child Abuse Response"

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

Pursuant to California Penal Code 933 and 933.05, I am submitting to you my response to the recently released Orange County Grand Jury 2005-2006 Report entitled, "Improving Child Abuse Response."

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Grand Jury for their services to the residents of Orange County. Their continued efforts to improve the lives and conditions in the County of Orange are an outstanding example of volunteerism to the county and its residents.

Background

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is committed to serving the needs of children in Orange County who become endangered or need to be protected from child abuse or other conditions. The Orange County Sheriff's Department continues to have a good working relationship with the Orange County Social Services Agency to protect and safeguard the children of this county. The Orange County Sheriff's Department understands the importance of developing effective protocols that limit children of this county to the least amount of stress, fear and confusion.

As identified in the Grand Jury report the "enhanced protocol" offered by Social Services has been proposed to the Orange County Sheriff's Department although it has not been implemented for reasons identified in the Grand Jury's report. The Orange County Sheriff's Department looks forward to working with the Orange County Social Services Agency to train and implement the protocols into its practice of protecting the children of this county.

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING CITIES AND AGENCIES:

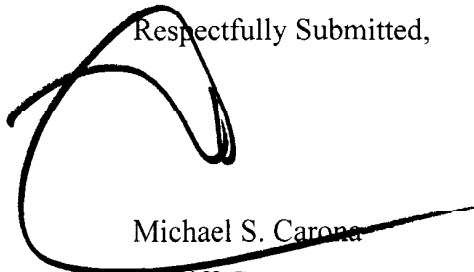
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Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this process and to respond to the concerns of the Orange County Grand Jury regarding "Improving Child Abuse Response."

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael S. Carona
Sheriff-Coroner

Response to Grand Jury Report 2005 – 2006
“Improving Child Abuse Response”
June 2006



Sheriff-Coroner Michael Carona

**ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Santa Ana, California
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Findings 6.2 – 6.3 of the Orange County Grand Jury report on Improving Child Abuse Response

Finding 6.2:

Expansion of the enhanced protocol is planned: *Once social worker capacity is increased, SSA will propose to expand the use of protocol to OCSD as well as the following cities: Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, La Habra, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Seal Beach, and Westminster.*

Response:

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner agrees with the finding. SSA should contact the Orange County Sheriff's Department when it is ready to expand its social worker capacity and include the Orange County Sheriff's Department in the enhanced protocol.

Finding 6.3:

Law enforcement agency procedures and training on child abuse response: *OCSD and other law enforcement agencies that have not been approached by SSA on the enhanced protocol, have not included protocol in their procedures, nor trained its officers of its use.*

Response:

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner agrees with the finding. The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner has reviewed the Social Services enhanced protocol. The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner agrees to use and train its personnel on how to use the enhanced protocol when Social Services is prepared to implement the protocol for areas served by the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Recommendations 7.1 – 7.2 of the Orange County Grand Jury report on Improving Child Abuse Response

Recommendation 7.1:

Law enforcement agency acceptance of SSA Field Response Protocol: *All Orange County law enforcement agencies should consider agreeing to the SSA enhanced protocol as social worker capacity is increased to support law enforcement needs. (See Findings 6.1 and 6.2)*

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The timeframe for the Orange County Sheriff's Department to implement the enhanced protocol is dependent upon Social Services timeframe to increase its social worker capacity. When Social Services can project a date for the Orange County Sheriff's Department to begin using the enhanced protocol, the Sheriff's Department will implement procedures to use and support the enhanced protocol.

Recommendation 7.2:

Law enforcement training on the enhanced protocol: *After a law enforcement agency agrees to the protocol, it should become part of the agency's procedure and line officers should be trained on the revised procedure. (See Finding 6.3)*

Response:

The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The timeframe for this implementation is dependent upon Social Services timeframe to increase its social worker capacity. When Social Services is ready to implement the enhanced protocol, the Sheriff's Department will establish guidelines for field deputies, investigators and supervisors to use the Social Services enhanced protocol and will conduct appropriate training to do so.