

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE VICTIM / WITNESS ASSISTANCE

Policy: 10-15

Effective: 01-01-09

Revised: 01-18-21

PURPOSE: To establish consistent and professional handling of victims and witnesses of crime and/or traumatic events.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department to enhance the treatment of victims and witnesses of crime and non-criminal crisis situations by providing the assistance and services necessary to speed their physical and emotional recovery, and to support and aid them as they continue to interact with the criminal justice system. The Department's treatment of victims and witnesses affects both their immediate and long-term ability to cope with the crime and can determine their willingness to assist in prosecution.

PROCEDURES:

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Officers of the Jacksonville Police Department are expected to value all victims and witnesses in order to maintain their personal integrity, to work toward a successful prosecution of the suspect, and to maintain the Department's level of professionalism. Officers shall understand the Arkansas Crime Victim Rights Law of 1998 affords specific rights for certain victims that are detailed in A.C.A. §16-90-1101 et. seq. A victim is afforded these rights protected in law if the victim meets the following criteria:
1. A "Victim" in these statutes means a victim of a sex offense or an offense against a victim who is a minor and a victim of any violent crime, but does not include a person who is accountable for the crime or a crime arising from the same conduct, criminal episode, or plan and does not include a governmental entity; and
 2. "Violent crime" is defined as any felony which resulted in physical injury to the victim, and any felony involving the use of a deadly weapon, terroristic threatening in the first degree, A.C.A. §5-13-301(a), and stalking, as defined in A.C.A. §5-71-229.

II. LAURA'S CARD

- A. In compliance with A.C.A. §16-90-1107 et seq., as amended by ACT 873 of 2015, officers will provide to the victim of domestic violence or, if appropriate, members of the victim's family a "Laura's Card," which will provide information on victims' rights, resources, protections, and available assistance.
- B. The card will be presented to the victim in a manner that the suspect/offender is not made aware of the victim's acceptance or possession of the card.
- C. The officer will complete the card with his name, ID number, incident number, and any other relevant information.



Brett C. Hibbs
Chief of Police