



CITY OF ORANGE

POLICE DEPARTMENT • 1107 N. BATAVIA STREET • ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92867 • (714) 744-7444
ORANGEPD.ORG FAX: (714) 744-7320

July 25, 2006

Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Stock:

As a result of the 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Improving Child Abuse Response," the Orange Police Department is providing a response to each of the findings and recommendations in compliance with Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b).

Section 6.2 addresses the planned expansion of the enhanced protocol. As stated in the findings, this planned expansion is predicated on the increase in social worker staffing levels with the SSA. The increase in SSA staff to uphold the 30-minute field response is necessary in order for the protocol to be effective. Thus, the Orange Police Department agrees with the planned expansion of the protocol as described in the Grand Jury report.

Section 6.3 calls for law enforcement agency procedures and training on child abuse response. The Orange Police Department agrees to train its officers on the new protocols described in the Grand Jury report involving identifying placement alternatives for children requiring protective custody and to reduce potential trauma to them. These procedures will be incorporated into the policy and procedure manual currently under revision.

Section 7.1 encourages law enforcement agency acceptance of SSA field response protocol. The Orange Police Department agrees, in part, to the SSA enhanced protocol provided that social worker capacity is increased as a means to enhance service to the community. The department recognizes the value of the 30-minute SSA field response as a crucial component of the program's success.

Section 7.2 identified the need for law enforcement training on the enhanced protocol. With the agreement of the SSA field response protocol described in the Grand Jury report, the Orange Police Department will train line level officers on the revised procedure. As mentioned in the report, the officer will be trained in the use of SSA social workers to work collaboratively, when practical, to make placement decisions that are in the best interest of the involved minor.

Any further questions or concerns can be addressed to Lt. Jackie Gomez-Whiteley at 714-744-7492.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Gustafson
Chief of Police