
Line-of-Duty Deaths

1032.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members of the Reno Police Department in the event of the death of a member occurring in the line of duty and to direct the Department in providing proper support for the member's survivors.

The Chief of Police may also apply some or all of this policy for a non-line-of-duty member death, or in situations where members are injured in the line of duty and the injuries are life-threatening.

1032.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Line-of-duty death - The death of an officer during the course of performing law enforcement-related functions while on- or off-duty, or a professional staff member during the course of performing assigned duties.

For an officer, a line-of-duty death includes death that is the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty (34 USC § 10281).

Survivors - Immediate family members of the deceased member, which can include spouse, children, parents, other next of kin, or significant others. The determination of who should be considered a survivor for purposes of this policy should be made on a case-by-case basis given the individual's relationship with the member and whether the individual was previously designated by the deceased member.

1032.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Reno Police Department to make appropriate notifications and to provide assistance and support to survivors and coworkers of a member who dies in the line of duty.

It is also the policy of this department to respect the requests of the survivors when they conflict with these guidelines, as appropriate.

1032.3 DEPARTMENT LIAISON

The Department Liaison should be a Captain or of sufficient rank to effectively coordinate department resources, and should serve as a facilitator between the deceased member's survivors and the Department.

1032.3.1 SURVIVOR SUPPORT LIAISON

The Survivor Support Liaison should work with the Department Liaison to fulfill the immediate needs and requests of the survivors of any member who has died in the line of duty, and serve as the long-term department contact for survivors.

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1032.3.2 WELLNESS SUPPORT LIAISON

The Wellness Support Liaison should work with the department wellness coordinator or the authorized designee and other liaisons and coordinators to make wellness support and counseling services available to members and survivors who are impacted by a line-of-duty death.

1032.3.3 FUNERAL LIAISON

The Funeral Liaison should work with the Department Liaison, Survivor Support Liaison, and survivors to coordinate funeral arrangements to the extent the survivors wish.

1032.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

In the event of a line-of-duty death, the department's PIO should be the department's contact point for the media.

1032.5 INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT

The Chief of Police should make necessary assignments to conduct thorough investigations of any line-of-duty death and may choose to use the investigation process outlined in the Regional Officer Involved Shooting Protocol.

[See attachment: 2024 Regional OIS Protocol - 4th amended \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#)

1032.6 NON-LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH

The Chief of Police may authorize certain support services for the death of a member not occurring in the line of duty.

Attachments

2024 Regional OIS Protocol - 4th amended (1) (1).pdf

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING PROTOCOL

2024 – 4th AMENDED



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I. PREAMBLE

The purpose of this Officer-Involved Shooting Protocol is to ensure that officer-involved shootings are investigated in a thorough, fair, and impartial manner so that the proper dispositions of such cases are made based upon all the legally available and relevant evidence.

II. DEFINITIONS

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING:

An *"Officer-Involved Shooting"* ("OIS") is defined as:

1. Any event in Washoe County where an "On-duty" "Officer" discharges a firearm and one or more of the bullets fired make contact, however slight, with any human being, or
2. Any event in Washoe County where any human being discharges a firearm and one or more of the bullets fired makes contact, however slight, with an Officer.

OFFICER:

"Officer" is defined as any police officer, deputy, or other sworn law enforcement officer, employed by any local, state, or federal law enforcement agency, who discharges a firearm in an OIS in Washoe County.

ON DUTY:

"On-duty" refers to any period of time wherein the Officer:

1. Is working during their normally assigned shift hours or during any supervisory-approved overtime hours; or
2. Identifies themselves as an Officer in the presence of the Civilian; or
3. Utilizes any tools of the law enforcement trade including, but not limited to, handcuffs, firearms, or badges in the presence of a Civilian.

CIVILIAN:

"Civilian" is defined as a human being who is struck by a bullet fired by an Officer, or a human being who fires at the Officer and strikes an Officer with a bullet.

CASE AGENT:

"Case Agent" is defined as any sworn law enforcement personnel employed with the Lead Investigating Agency who is designated as the primary person responsible to lead the investigation, timely inform the Homicide/OIS On-call DA of critical investigative measures and timely compile and provide all investigative findings to the District Attorney at the investigation conclusion.

ATTENDANT:

"Attendant" is defined as any law enforcement personnel who is employed by the same agency as the Officer involved in the OIS, who is assigned by Supervisors to remain with the Officer.

ESCORT:

"Escort" is defined as any law enforcement personnel assigned by Supervisors to remain with the Civilian.

SUPERVISOR:

"Supervisor(s)" or "Supervisory Personnel" is defined as any assigned supervisory personnel from any of the Protocol signatory agencies.

OIS INVESTIGATION TEAM:

"OIS Investigation Team" is defined as the investigators assigned to conduct an OIS criminal investigation.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION:

"Criminal Investigation" is defined as an investigation of an OIS to ascertain all the relevant evidence so that a decision can be made as to whether any criminal laws were violated. The criminal investigation is separate from, and takes precedence over, any administrative, internal and/or civil investigation.

FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION:

"Forensic Science Division" ("FSD") is defined as the forensic division from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

FSD PERSONNEL:

"FSD Personnel" is defined as personnel from the FSD who preserve, and document designated scenes with photography and diagrams, process scenes by the packaging and collection of evidence, perform forensic tests, prepare reports of findings, and refer collected evidence for laboratory analysis.

FSD SUPERVISOR:

"FSD Supervisor" is defined as a member of the FSD that is assigned in a supervisory capacity.

CRIMINALIST:

"Criminalist" is defined as an FSD civilian employee who performs professional laboratory analysis of physical evidence in a specialized field of forensic science.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE:

"Association Representative" is defined as a member of the Collective Bargaining Unit acting as a representative of that Unit.

All definitions above are Protocol-specific

III. PROTOCOL INVOCATION

This Protocol is automatically invoked upon an OIS occurrence as in the Definitions section, so long as the Officer is employed by a signatory agency.

IV. PROCEDURE: INVOLVED OFFICER & FIRST RESPONDERS

1. The Officer or any other law enforcement personnel at the scene will immediately notify Dispatch of an OIS occurrence and request that medical personnel be immediately dispatched unless it is impossible to do so because of imminent safety concerns or because of the immediate medical needs of an Officer or Civilian.
2. The Officer or any other law enforcement personnel on scene will take the steps set forth below to secure and preserve the scene, pending the arrival of other law enforcement personnel and/or the OIS Investigation Team after the dispatch notification and medical requests.
3. The firearm used by the Officer is evidence in the pending investigation. The Officer will not reload, unload, alter or manipulate the firearm they discharged unless it is necessary to alleviate an imminent safety concern. If the Officer holstered their weapon at the OIS conclusion, the firearm must remain holstered unless an imminent safety concern requires otherwise. If the firearm ended up on the ground or some other location, the firearm must remain there, unless an imminent safety concern requires otherwise.
4. Any Body Worn Camera footage of the event is evidence in the pending investigation. The Officer will retain any Body Worn Camera device on their person until the Officer turns over the device to FSD or the OIS Investigation Team, for the purpose of docking and uploading the video footage, unless previously removed by medical personnel. Any Body Worn camera footage is considered evidence and shall not be distributed, except for investigative purposes, both internally and externally, without the express consent of the shooting agency.
5. If the Civilian was armed with a weapon, the Officer will not touch or move the weapon, unless an imminent safety concern requires otherwise, or unless it is absolutely necessary in order for emergency medical personnel to access the Civilian. If the Officer must move the weapon because no other law enforcement officers are present, the Officer will not alter or manipulate the weapon. Unless emergency circumstances dictate otherwise, the Officer should wear gloves if moving the weapon is necessitated.
6. If other law enforcement personnel are present and a Civilian's weapon must be moved as outlined in the paragraph above, then they will do so. The uninvolved officer will not alter or manipulate the weapon. Unless emergency circumstances dictate otherwise, the uninvolved officer should wear gloves if moving the weapon is necessitated. The uninvolved officer will document any action involving all involved firearms in a written report.

7. In the event the Officer or other law enforcement personnel were required by exigent circumstances to move, alter, or manipulate any weapon, or other potential item of evidentiary value, they will notify a scene Supervisor and/or the OIS Investigation Team upon their arrival.
8. If other law enforcement personnel are present, they will secure the scene perimeter with scene tape. If no other law enforcement personnel are present and if feasible, the Officer will secure the perimeter of the scene with scene tape. The Officer or other law enforcement personnel will not allow entry into the scene by any unauthorized personnel.
9. Responding law enforcement personnel, Supervisors and/or the OIS Investigation Team will assume responsibility for scene preservation upon their arrival. The Officer will cease their efforts to preserve the scene upon the arrival of such law enforcement responders.
10. The Officer will be asked on-scene to provide initial public safety detail of the shooting incident to on-scene Supervisors. This field questioning by Supervisors will be limited to obtaining critical information relating to public safety and exigent circumstances or identifying and locating outstanding suspects.
11. The Officer will be asked to voluntarily identify and relinquish all firearms and/or other weapons used in the OIS and any Body Worn Camera devices, as more fully set forth in Sections IV-VI. The Officer may be asked to relinquish any clothing or other items on their person during the OIS event at the discretion of FSD and/or the OIS Investigation team.
12. The Officer will be asked to voluntarily not consume any external information about the OIS facts from any source until the formal interview with the OIS Investigation Team is concluded. The Officer will be asked to voluntarily decline to communicate any OIS facts with anyone other than counsel, or a member of the Officer's bargaining unit, until the formal interview with the OIS Investigation Team is completed. The Officer will be asked to voluntarily take part in a formal interview by the OIS Investigation Team away from the OIS scene. An Officer's review of Body Worn Camera footage will be subject to the Officer's Departmental policy.
13. If Supervisors and/or the OIS Investigation Team receive and/or observe articulable facts of alcohol or narcotics used by an Officer or Civilian, they will seek further assessment including questioning and/or obtaining evidentiary samples pursuant to law.
14. Any emergent evidence collection or scene documentation made by the Officer or scene first-responders such as photographs or otherwise, will be immediately disclosed to the scene Supervisor.

V. PROCEDURE: ATTENDANTS, ESCORTS & SEGREGATION OF PARTIES

1. A law enforcement member of the same agency as the Officer will be assigned by a Supervisor as an Attendant to always remain with the Officer until relieved by the OIS Investigation Team. An Association Representative cannot act simultaneously as an Attendant.
2. An Attendant will not discuss the OIS facts with the Officer. An Attendant will request of the Officer to voluntarily decline to communicate any OIS facts with anyone other than the Officer's counsel, or a member of the Officer's bargaining unit, until the formal interview with the OIS Investigation Team is completed. An Attendant will request of the Officer to voluntarily not consume any external information about the OIS facts from any source until the formal interview with the OIS Investigation Team is completed. If the Officer nonetheless makes statements about the OIS event, an Attendant will document the Officer's statements in a written report.
3. An Attendant will prepare a written report documenting contact with the Officer. This report will include the location and status of any Body Worn Camera devices and other items of evidence until relinquished to FSD or the OIS Investigation Team for assessment and/or processing.
4. A Supervisor should appoint an Escort to stay with the Civilian until relieved by the OIS Investigation Team. A Civilian's clothing will be collected for potential forensic examination at the FSD pursuant to the law if articulable suspicion exists that the Civilian may have discharged a firearm.
5. An Escort will not discuss the OIS facts with the Civilian. An Escort will request of the involved Civilian to voluntarily not consume any OIS facts from any source until the formal interview with the OIS Investigation Team is completed. If the Civilian nonetheless communicates OIS facts to an Escort, the Escort will document the Civilian's statements in a written report. An Escort will not attempt to ask follow-up questions of the Civilian as the Civilian will be formally interviewed by the OIS Investigation Team as set forth in Section V.
6. An Attendant and Escort should be relieved upon the interview commencement of the Officer and Civilian by the OIS Investigation Team. The OIS Investigation Team may request that an Attendant and Escort continue their duties for an additional period of time should unique circumstances exist.
7. An Attendant will transport the Officer for a formal interview by the OIS Investigation Team.
8. A Supervisor, Escort or the OIS Investigation Team will arrange to transport the Civilian for a formal interview once any necessary medical treatment has been obtained. All such interviews are to be conducted by the OIS Investigation Team as outlined in Section V.

VI. PROCEDURE: SUPERVISORS

1. A minimum of two Supervisors will be immediately dispatched to an OIS scene; one who is not employed by the same agency as the Officer and one who is employed by the same agency as the Officer. The Lead Supervisor will not be employed by the same agency as the Officer. One responding Supervisor will assume responsibility for the incident as the Lead Supervisor and ensure the Protocol directives are implemented to include making all necessary notifications. Supervisors dispatched will notify their chain of command pursuant to their agency's policy and procedure.
2. A Supervisor will immediately ensure that any necessary medical treatment is rendered for an Officer, a Civilian, or any other injured party. If the Officer, Civilian, or any injured party needs transport to a hospital, Supervisors will take steps to ensure prompt transportation. Off-scene Escort or guard duty of an injured person will be determined by the available agency resources and the circumstances of the event as deemed appropriate by the OIS Investigation Team Supervisors with approval from their respective Chief or Sheriff or their designees. The Supervisor will assign Attendants and Escorts.
3. The Lead Supervisor will take responsibility for securing the OIS scene. The Lead Supervisor will ensure the scene encompasses any involved areas, vehicles or structures and will assign personnel to secure, protect and maintain the condition of the scene to include the proper placement of scene tape. Every attempt will be made to maintain the scene in the exact condition that existed at the end of the OIS incident. The Lead Supervisor will ensure that no evidence items are moved or altered unless it is absolutely necessary to do so for safety reasons or to preserve evidence. If the scene is altered prior to the Lead Supervisor's arrival, they will determine what changes took place, identify who altered the scene and why this occurred. The Lead Supervisor will direct those involved in altering the scene to complete a detailed supplement to document those actions. This information will be shared timely with the OIS Investigation Team.
4. A Supervisor will ask the Officer to provide initial public safety information about the OIS incident if the Officer is on the scene. Questions will be limited to critical information relating to public safety, exigent circumstances, or identifying or locating outstanding suspects.
5. If the Officer and/or Civilian are injured and in need of medical attention that requires the removal of uniform items and/or clothing, the Supervisor will ensure the uniform and/or clothing are collected as evidence and transferred to the custody of FSD Personnel. If the Officer or Civilian does not need to remove their uniform and/or clothing, the OIS Investigation Team will coordinate with FSD Personnel to collect clothing or uniform items that are deemed to have evidentiary value at an appropriate location.
6. The Lead Supervisor is responsible for denying all access to the scene until the OIS Investigation Team arrives and accepts responsibility for the scene as outlined in Section V.

7. A Supervisor will assign personnel to locate and identify potential witnesses. The Supervisor will direct uninvolved law enforcement personnel to collect basic contact information and a written statement from all witnesses to determine the critical nature of the information possessed by each witness if possible. If applicable, the Supervisor will direct law enforcement personnel to complete a canvass of potential witnesses, homes, and businesses in the immediate area and to document the results of those actions.
8. All pertinent information gathered at the scene will be channeled to the Lead Supervisor, who will collect, organize, and present this information to the OIS Investigation Team upon their arrival. The Lead Supervisor will coordinate task assignments and communicate all relevant information immediately gathered from the scene to the Case Agent.
9. When necessary, a Supervisor will determine where witness interviews shall take place based upon the unique facts of each OIS and arrange for all witnesses to be transported or to travel to a police station or the Sheriff's office to be interviewed by the OIS Investigation Team. Efforts will be made to interview the Officer and any law enforcement witnesses at the agency where they are employed.
10. Supervisors may give the families of injured or deceased parties information about the condition of the party to the same extent and subject to the same limitations as in any criminal investigation.
11. Supervisors will defer all media requests for information or statements to the OIS Investigation Team Lead Supervisor unless there is an immediate need for public assistance or public safety concerns. Supervisors, however, may provide the media on the scene with limited information, acknowledging that an OIS has occurred, that an OIS Investigation is underway, and that additional information will be shared in due course.

VII. PROCEDURE: LEAD AGENCY & OIS INVESTIGATION TEAM

1. The OIS Investigation Team will be comprised of members from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Reno Police Department, and the Sparks Police Department. The OIS Investigation Team will have current or former detective experience. The selection of members for the OIS Investigation Team will be made by supervisory or administrative personnel at each respective agency. Due to the critical nature of these investigations, when possible, supervisory personnel will select members with experience in homicide and violent felony investigations.
2. The participating agencies will rotate assuming the Lead Investigation Agency role and supervisory responsibility for OIS Investigations. The agency of primary jurisdiction where the OIS event occurred will be the Lead Investigation Agency, unless that agency has an involved Officer or, unless that agency defers to another consulting agency based on present resource unavailability. In the event personnel from two of the three

participating agencies are involved in an OIS, the uninvolved agency will take the lead role and supervisory responsibility for the OIS Investigation. In the event personnel from the three participating agencies are involved in an OIS, the agency with the least involvement in the OIS event itself will assume the lead role.

3. Once the Lead Investigation Agency has been identified that agency will assume supervisory responsibility and authority for the investigation. Investigators from participating agencies will be assigned to the investigation by their departmental supervisors. All decisions related to resources, investigative tasks/assignments and prioritizing investigative functions are granted to the lead agency and the identified Supervisors. The Lead Supervisor will not be employed by the same agency as the involved Officer. The investigative Supervisors will discuss any varying or conflicting recommendations. The ultimate decision on resolving inter-agency conflicts is granted to the investigative Supervisors of the lead agency.
4. The OIS Investigation Team will make efforts to conduct investigations using investigative resources from non-involved or the least-involved agencies whenever possible. Investigators from the involved agency will be applied to non-critical assignments whenever possible.
5. The number of members of the OIS Investigation Team who respond to an OIS will be determined by supervisory personnel depending upon the unique circumstances of each case. A minimum of six members of the OIS Investigation Team should be dispatched to a fatal OIS, and at least four members of the OIS Investigation Team should be dispatched to a non-fatal OIS.
6. Upon notification, two members of the OIS Investigation Team not employed by the same agency as the Officer will be dispatched directly to the location of the Officer if they are no longer on scene for the purpose of assessment, photography, and potential evidence collection. The team member(s) will immediately arrange for photography and thereafter request the Officer to voluntarily relinquish all Body Worn Camera devices, and weapons used in the OIS, along with all magazines, ammunition and/or cartridges following the customary evidence collection procedure to include photographs of the process as identified in this Section.
7. After arriving on scene, supervisors on the OIS Investigation Team will identify the Lead Investigation Agency and the investigators who will comprise the OIS Investigation Team. Time sensitive assignments will be initiated as needed. The OIS Investigation Team will arrange an incident briefing with the on-scene Lead Supervisor. The supervisors for the OIS Investigation Team will identify investigative tasks and assignments and prioritize both accordingly.

8. The OIS Investigation Team supervisor and investigators assigned to the scene will take responsibility for the security of the scene and for identifying items of evidence to be photographed, documented, and collected. Absent exigent circumstances, law enforcement personnel from the involved agency shall not be involved in the collection, processing, and investigating of evidence during an OIS investigation. Their role is to provide logistical support and administrative input.
9. FSD Personnel will be briefed, which may include a walk-through of the scene. FSD Personnel will preserve the scene(s) by systematically moving through the scene, photographing, and documenting the scene and related evidence after the scene has been secured and prior to anyone entering the scene. After overall photography, the OIS Investigation Team assigned to the scene and FSD Personnel will work together to identify items of evidence and ensure they are properly collected. An OIS Investigation Team member will prepare a report that documents the general actions taken at the scene and identify and describe the specific details of evidence located and collected. The specific details of evidence locations and collection will be documented by FSD Personnel.
10. The OIS Investigation Team will promptly forward to the Case Agent all digital images, CD/DVD or other media storage devices containing all photographs, audio, and video footage.
11. The OIS Investigation Team assigned to interview essential civilian witnesses will record the interviews. The interviews should occur at a police station or the Sheriff's Office whenever possible rather than in the field to facilitate both video and audio recording of the interviews. Witnesses should not be interviewed in the presence of another witness. If a witness has left the OIS scene and he/she possesses critical information, efforts will be made to immediately contact and interview the witness.
12. The OIS Investigation Team assigned to interview law enforcement witnesses will video and audio record these interviews at a police department or the Sheriff's Office if possible. The OIS Investigation Team will make efforts to interview law enforcement witnesses at the agency by which they are employed.
13. The OIS Investigation Team assigned to interview the Civilian will video and audio record the interviews at a police department or the Sheriff's Office if possible. The OIS Investigation Team will ensure the Civilian is photographed and his/her clothing is collected by FSD Personnel.
14. The OIS Investigation Team assigned to interview the involved Officer will not be employed by the same agency as the Officer. These members will interview the Officer by video and audio recording at the Officer's agency of employment if possible. If an Officer elects to postpone the interview, the OIS Investigation Team will ensure that the Officer is promptly photographed by FSD Personnel and that all of the officer's equipment of evidentiary value including: involved weapons, firearms, any recording devices, shoes, uniform and necessary clothing items are processed

- for evidence (i.e. swabs of surfaces) or collected by personnel designated by the Lead Investigation Agency prior to the Officer's departure from the Officer's home agency. Should the Officer choose to postpone the interview, he/she will be re-asked to voluntarily not consume any external information related to the OIS event until the formal interview is concluded. If the interview is postponed, the interviewers will clarify with the Officer if he/she consumed any information related to the OIS incident that could influence the interview responses.
15. The OIS Investigation Team will ensure the Officer is photographed and conduct an evidentiary evaluation of the Officer's clothing, and all discharged weapons and ammunition evaluation or "countdown." When completing the countdown of the weapon(s) discharged by the Officer, FSD Personnel will observe and document the weapon countdown outside the Officer's presence. The OIS Investigation Team will be responsible for documenting all weapons not discharged in an OIS incident by an Officer or Civilian when team members deem a countdown appropriate.
 16. The OIS Investigation Team will schedule an Evidence Staffing with the FSD when appropriate. The OIS Investigation Team will request laboratory testing and analysis on various items of physical evidence based on the unique facts and circumstances of each individual case.
 17. There will be at least one Investigative Staffing and one FSD Laboratory Staffing for each OIS investigation. The Case Agent will notify District Attorney Personnel so that they may attend the staffing events as appropriate.
 18. The OIS Investigation Team and any other law enforcement personnel who take part in the OIS criminal investigation will comply with the rules of law that apply in criminal proceedings, including constitutional, statutory, and case law.
 19. The Lead Investigating Agency is solely responsible for communication with the family of any Civilian during the pendency of the active investigation, until the completed investigation is submitted to the Washoe County District Attorney's Office for review.
 20. The agency employing the Officer may, after consultation with the Lead Investigation Agency, make a limited media release statement concerning facts pertaining to the Officer, the Officer's assignment, the policies of the employing law enforcement agency, or the facts that are distinct from and unrelated to the OIS investigation facts. The Lead Investigating Agency is solely responsible for all media releases or official statements regarding the circumstances of an OIS event during the investigation phase. The Washoe County District Attorney's Office has sole responsibility for all media releases or official statements regarding an OIS event, the investigation, or its findings after the completed investigation is under review.

21. If a Civilian is taken to the hospital, the first 24 hours of supervision will be handled by the Lead Investigation Agency. The next 24 hours will be handled by the Secondary Investigation Agency. After 48 hours, the agency employing the Officer will be responsible for guard duty.
22. Each agency will release their own critical incident debrief per their agency policy.

VIII. PROCEDURE: FORENSIC PERSONNEL

1. Forensic investigation support in all OIS cases will be provided by FSD.
2. The number of FSD Personnel who respond to a particular OIS will be determined by the FSD Supervisor, depending upon the unique circumstances of each case. Dependent on availability, the FSD Supervisor will attempt to send a minimum of two FSD Personnel to any OIS. The FSD Supervisor and OIS Investigation Team Supervisor will communicate and determine how FSD Personnel will be deployed depending on the circumstances of each event. FSD Personnel will respond upon notification to the location of the incident and the location of the Officer for the purpose of photography and evidence collection.
3. FSD Personnel will take overall and specific photographs of the Civilian and the Officer. The number and nature of photographs to be taken in line with FSD protocol and in consultation with the OIS Investigation Team.
4. FSD Personnel will collect all firearms and weapons used by the Civilian. FSD Personnel will collect all discharged firearms and weapons used by the Officer, if not yet relinquished to an on-scene Supervisor. FSD Personnel will document, through the photographs taken and in a written report, the condition of all weapons used, and firearms discharged, performing a weapon and ammunition "countdown." FSD Personnel will document, through photographs taken and in a written report, the condition of any related components, including firearm magazines or loose ammunition.
5. FSD Personnel and the OIS Investigation Team will collectively determine what biological evidence, comparison evidence, clothing, accessories, and/or equipment worn, possessed, or used by the Civilian and Officer are of evidentiary value for collection. FSD Personnel will collect those items determined to be of evidentiary value. This process will occur for an Officer once the Officer has reached a police department, the Sheriff's Office, or other appropriate location. If the Officer or Civilian declines to voluntarily relinquish any items of evidentiary value, then the OIS Investigation Team will immediately arrange to apply for a court order to obtain the identified items.
6. FSD Personnel will respond to the hospital to photograph the Civilian or Officer in their current state, as allowed by hospital staff, and collect items of evidentiary value removed from the Civilian or Officer.

7. FSD Personnel will be assigned to document and process the primary OIS scene. FSD Personnel will consult with the OIS Investigation Team and identify items of evidence at the scene. FSD Personnel will photograph the scene and collect measurements for a 2D, or 3D diagram of the OIS scene. FSD Personnel will collect all identified items of evidence from the scene.
8. FSD Personnel should take all photographs unless exigent circumstances require otherwise. Examples of extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to, severe weather concerns which arise prior to the arrival of FSD Personnel, safety concerns which arise prior to the arrival of FSD Personnel, or situations where the Officer or other law enforcement officers take emergency photographs in accordance with Section 11. All photographs taken in any format will be promptly forwarded to the Lead Investigation Agency.
9. The FSD will promptly forward all photographs taken by FSD Personnel to the Case Agent.
10. FSD Personnel will perform additional forensic investigation work, as necessary, based upon the unique facts and circumstances of each case to fully document the primary scene and any additional scenes.
11. FSD personnel may be dispatched to the OIS scene to assist in the investigation as needed based on the unique circumstances of each event. The OIS Investigation Team will consult with the FSD Director, or other appropriate FSD supervisory personnel in making this determination.

IX. PROCEDURE: AUTOPSY

1. An autopsy will be performed by the Washoe County Medical Examiner's Office (WCME) as soon as reasonably practicable in the event of an OIS fatality. The WCME is responsible for promptly notifying the Case Agent or the OIS Investigation Team of the date and time of the autopsy. The OIS Investigation Team will promptly notify FSD Personnel of the date and time of the autopsy. The Case Agent will promptly notify District Attorney Personnel of the date and time of the autopsy.
2. An OIS resulting in a death is a homicide and will be treated accordingly. The same autopsy procedures that are utilized in a homicide case will be utilized in an OIS case where the Civilian and/or the Officer dies. All evidence recovered at the autopsy, including the decedent's clothing, fired projectiles, and blood reference standards will be collected and booked into evidence by the Lead Investigating Agency.
3. Procedures performed by the Medical Examiner in OIS cases will include full body x-rays, recovery of all projectiles and projectile fragments as evidence, and any special dissections deemed necessary to document injury or other relevant findings. The Medical Examiner assigned to the case, and/or the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the extent of any special examinations. Toxicology testing will be performed in all OIS cases. Any evidence collected during the autopsy will be released to the Lead Investigating Agency.

4. The OIS Investigation Team, Case Agent, or other involved law enforcement agency personnel will provide timely investigative information to the Medical Examiner Investigator. This information includes preliminary verbal reporting prior to the autopsy regarding the incident facts and circumstances prior to the release of the final autopsy report. The WCME will release the final autopsy report and final cause and manner of death in a timely fashion. In most OIS cases, the cause and manner of death will be available immediately following the autopsy. The Medical Examiner will provide verbal preliminary autopsy findings to the OIS Investigation Team and District Attorney Personnel immediately following the autopsy.

X. PROCEDURE: DISTRICT ATTORNEY PERSONNEL

1. The Lead Investigation Agency Supervisor will immediately notify the prosecutor in possession of the Homicide/OIS on-call phone at 775.250.4210 upon an OIS event being reported by law enforcement. The Lead Investigation Agency Supervisor will immediately notify the prosecutor in possession of the general on-call phone at 775.250.4208 if no response is received at the number above. Once notified, the prosecutor contacted will notify the District Attorney, or the Assistant District Attorney if the District Attorney is not available.
2. The District Attorney's Office will advise and assist the OIS Investigation Team on legal issues that may arise, including but not limited to issues regarding elements of crimes, *Miranda*, voluntariness, physical evidence, search and seizure, and possible defenses. As in any criminal case, District Attorney personnel will not give advice regarding whether sufficient evidence exists to determine reasonable suspicion or probable cause, as that determination is a law enforcement personnel function. District Attorney Personnel will be permitted timely and full access to any relevant OIS scenes.
3. All reports and materials generated in furtherance of the OIS investigation will be forwarded to the District Attorney for their legal review as requested. The Case Agent will ensure that the entirety of the investigative materials have been collected and timely submitted to the District Attorney. If all necessary and critical information, which is typically part of a thorough investigation, is included, the District Attorney will thereafter evaluate the investigative materials submitted to determine the legality of the actions in the OIS event pursuant to NRS 171.1455, 200.120-200.200, and all other applicable provisions of law. The absence of necessary and critical investigative information that precludes the District Attorney from making an informed determination will result in the District Attorney declining to make a determination as described immediately above.
4. Nothing in this Protocol prevents the OIS Investigation Team or Lead Investigation Agency from submitting a criminal case for prosecution through normal channels if they ascertain that any person involved in an OIS event committed a crime. In cases where a prosecution proceeds based on the facts and circumstances of an OIS event, the District Attorney will not complete a review until said prosecution has concluded.

XI. OIS NOTIFICATION CHECKLIST

The following are all to be immediately notified as soon as the tactical situation permits:

DISPATCH:	Notification by Officer or other Law Enforcement First Responders <i>Section II</i>
AGENCY SUPERVISORS:	Notification by Dispatch <i>Section IV</i>
OIS INVESTIGATION TEAM:	Notification by Dispatch <i>Section V</i>
FORENSIC PERSONNEL:	Notification by OIS Investigation Team <i>Section VI</i>
DISTRICT ATTORNEY:	Notification by the Lead Investigating Agency Supervisor <i>Section VIII</i>

XII. AGREEMENT

The Agency Heads, on behalf of their respective agencies, agree to be bound by this Protocol and comply with the terms outlined herein.

DATED this 12 day of September, 2024.

X 

Christopher J. Hicks
District Attorney, Washoe County

X 

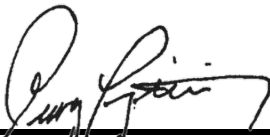
Darin Balaam
Sheriff, Washoe County Sheriff's Office

X 


Kathryn Nance
Chief of Police, Reno Police Department

X 

Chris Crawford
Chief of Police, Sparks Police Department

X 

George Togliatti
Director, Nevada Department of Public Safety

X 

Eric James
Chief of Police, University of Nevada

X 

Tracy Moore
Chief of Police, WCSD Police Department