



# Sarnia Police Services Board Policy

Issue Number:

**SPS-BP-LE-024**

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| <b>Subject:</b><br><b>Intimate Partner/Family Violence</b> | <b>Effective Date:</b><br><b>January 23, 2025</b> |
| <b>Replaces:</b><br><b>September 14, 2023</b>              | <b>Distribution:</b><br><b>All Members</b>        |
| <b>Last Reviewed:</b><br><b>January 23, 2025</b>           | <b>Expiration Date:</b><br><b>Indefinite</b>      |
| <b>Approved By:</b><br><b>Board Chair</b>                  | <b>Signature:</b><br><i>Paul Wiersma</i>          |

## **A** Legislative/Regulatory Requirements

*Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, ("CSPA")* provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by **Section 10** of the **CSPA**.

**38 (2)** of the **CSPA** provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing.

**Ontario Regulation 392/23: Adequacy and Effective Policing (General)** prescribes standards for adequacy and effectiveness of police services.

## **B** Policy Statement

1. The Sarnia Police Service Board recognizes that matters of Intimate Partner/Family Violence are very serious in nature, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that investigations into such matters be conducted professionally and thoroughly, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief of Police.

## **C** Board Policy

1. It is the policy of the Sarnia Police Services Board with respect to Intimate Partner/Family

Violence occurrences that the Chief of Police shall:

- (a) In partnership with the police service's local Crown, Probation and Parole Services, Victim/Witness Assistance Programme (VWAP), Victim Services of Sarnia, municipalities, local Children's Aid Societies and other local service providers and community representatives responsible for issues related to Intimate Partner/Family Violence including women's shelters, work to establish and maintain one or more Intimate Partner/Family Violence Review Committees that cover the geographic areas that fall within the jurisdiction of the police service;
  - (b) Implement one or more of the models set out in ministry guidelines for the investigation of Intimate Partner/Family Violence occurrences and ensure that the police service has access to trained Intimate Partner/Family Violence investigators;
  - (c) Develop and maintain procedures for undertaking and managing investigations into Intimate Partner/Family Violence occurrences that address:
    - (i) Communications and dispatch;
    - (ii) Initial response;
    - (iii) Enhanced investigative procedures;
    - (iv) The mandatory laying of charges where there are reasonable grounds to do so, including in cases where there is a breach of a bail condition, probation, parole or a restraining order;
    - (v) The use of a risk indicators tool;
    - (vi) Children at risk;
    - (vii) High-risk cases and repeat offenders;
    - (viii) Occurrences involving members of a police service;
    - (ix) Post-arrest procedures;
    - (x) Victim assistance; and
    - (xi) Safety planning;
  - (d) Ensure that the Service's response to Intimate Partner/Family Violence occurrences are monitored and evaluated; and
  - (e) Ensure that officers and other appropriate members receive the appropriate ministry-accredited training.
2. The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30th of each year in respect of the investigation of Intimate Partner/Family Violence occurrences. The report shall include:
- (a) A summary of the written procedures concerning Intimate Partner/Family Violence investigations, including changes since the date of the last report;

- (b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures;
- (c) A summary of the training given to members with respect to Intimate Partner/Family Violence;
- (d) A summary of the steps taken by the Service to monitor and evaluate response to Intimate Partner/Family Violence occurrences; and
- (e) A summary of the issues dealt with by the Intimate Partner/Family Violence Review Committee.