

# Germantown Police Department

## Policies and Procedures

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**Number:** 3-2  
**Effective Date:** January 1, 2003  
**Subject:** Rape Investigations  
**Previous Revisions:**

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### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidelines regarding the proper way to respond to calls involving alleged rape.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Germantown Police Department for all officers responding to calls of an alleged rape to act in a professional manner and in accordance with established departmental procedures.

### **III. PROCEDURE**

- A. As soon as the officer determines the victim should be examined, he/she will notify his/her supervisor who will notify a Germantown Police Department on-call detective, who will determine if a Nurse Clinician will be called to meet the victim at the Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center.
- B. No victim will be forced to go to this clinic for an examination. He/she has the choice of going to this clinic or to his/her own personal physician if he/she will conduct the examination.
- C. All rape victims will be taken to the Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center located in Memphis.

### **IV. HANDLING OF CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR ABUSE**

When a uniform officer receives a complaint or learns of a child who has allegedly been sexually abused, the officer will determine the following:

- A. If the child is under thirteen (13) years of age, or

- B. If the child is between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen (17) years of age, does the perpetrator have control, custody, or responsibility for the child's welfare (parent, guardian, relative, babysitter, etc.); or
- C. If a child under thirteen (13) years of age is the victim of an exhibitionist, or a child thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) years of age is the victim of an exhibitionist who lives in the child's home or is responsible for the child's welfare.
- D. If any of the above criteria applies, the uniform officer on the scene may, if necessary to secure pertinent information, briefly question the victim of the alleged abuse. These uniform officers will not conduct an in depth interview with the victim. They will call their supervisor to the scene to determine the necessity for the commencement of an immediate investigation. The decision will be based upon:
  - 1. The immediate safety or well being of the child, or
  - 2. The probability the child may not be available later for the purpose of conducting a child protective investigation. The supervisor will notify the on-call detective.
- E. All investigations of child sexual abuse will be handled by the Child Protection Investigative Team. The above guidelines are for uniform officers to determine what cases are covered under the Child Sexual Abuse Law and the procedures for notifying the Child Protection Investigative Team.
- F. Any investigation of sexual assault of a child between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen (17), which do not meet the above criteria, will be handled by the Investigative Division.

**V. REVIEW PROCESS**

An annual review of this policy will be conducted to determine if it should be revised, cancelled or continued in its present form.

This policy shall remain in effect until revoked or superseded by competent authority.