

# El Dorado County Grand Jury 2011-2012

## Placerville Police Investigative Policy

Case number GJ-11-012

### **Reason for Report**

The Grand Jury is charged by law to identify inefficiencies, failures to follow County Ordinances, State laws and Department protocols. A complaint was received by the Grand Jury in December 2011, from a member of the Board of Supervisors, who had received it directly from the complainant.

### **Background**

The complaint was filed by family members on behalf of their elderly mother who was a victim of an alleged sexual assault, regarding treatment received by the Placerville Police Department on September 1, 2011. The mother's doctor directed them to file a report with the Placerville Police Department. The complaint alleges lack of privacy, lack of sensitivity, and the failure to perform a thorough investigation.

### **Methodology**

Documents reviewed:

Letter written by family of complainant (11/25/11)  
Handwritten notes from victim (8/27/11 thru 8/31/11)

Interviews:

El Dorado County Counsel  
El Dorado County District Attorney's Office  
Police Chief, Placerville Police Department  
Victim and family members

### **Facts/Findings**

1. The complaint, filed with the Placerville Police Department on September 1, 2011, is not complete. The referrals to appropriate agencies are also not complete.
2. At the time the report was filed there was only one officer on duty.

3. The officer on duty did not follow Placerville Police Department protocol in dealing with sexual assault victims; additionally, it was determined that the officer involved lacked sensitivity during the interview.
4. The Placerville Police Department did not update the victim on her case leaving her frustrated and confused.
5. The Placerville Police Department is conducting an administrative investigation into the officer's actions.

### **Recommendations**

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Placerville Police Department follow through with appropriate protocol to finalize this investigation.
2. The Grand Jury recommends that the Placerville Police Department officers and personnel receive training in sensitivity and sexual assault procedures and protocol.
3. The Grand Jury recommends that the Placerville Police Department forward the results of their internal administrative investigation to the Grand Jury.

### **Responses**

Responses to both the findings and recommendations in this report are required by law in accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Address responses to: The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury, Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court, 1354 Johnson Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

This report has been provided to:

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
El Dorado County District Attorney's Office  
Placerville Police Department