

SPECIAL ORDER



Title	SAFE Ride-Along Program
Number	SO-12-15
Effective Date	April 25, 2012
Related To:	GO-OPS-304.11 (Intrafamily Offenses) GO-OPS-204.04 (Ride-Along Program)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. BACKGROUND

Since 2006, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has been working closely with the Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (SAFE) Inc. in providing immediate and direct services to victims of domestic violence through the On-Call Advocacy Program (OCAP). The program has expanded from an initial focus on two (2) Patrol Support Areas (PSAs) to serving every PSA throughout the District, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

To further expand the services available to victims of domestic violence, SAFE and MPD have created the "SAFE Ride-Along Program" which will bring SAFE advocates to the scenes of intrafamily calls for service. SAFE and MPD have agreed to a recurring schedule that will bring the SAFE advocates to the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Police Districts (3D, 4D, 5D, 6D, and 7D) on specified days each month for ride-alongs with MPD members for up to eight (8) hours. The project will offer direct and immediate in-person support services to domestic violence victims.

II. REGULATIONS

SAFE advocates participating in the SAFE Ride-Along Program are prohibited from using any electronic devices, video equipment, and/or photographic equipment at any time during their ride-along. Failure to abide by these prohibitions will result in immediate termination of the ride-along and possible termination from any future participation in the program.

III. PROCEDURES

A. SAFE Ride-Along Program Schedule

Beginning Wednesday May 2, 2012, SAFE advocates will participate in the Safe Ride-Along Program during the evening shift at:

1. 3D – The first and third Wednesday of each month;
2. 4D – The second and fourth Wednesday of each month;
3. 5D – The second and fourth Thursday of each month;
4. 6D – The second and fourth Friday of each month; and
5. 7D – The first and third Friday of each month.

B. SAFE Ride-Along Program Procedures

1. SAFE advocates must complete a PD Form 369 (Ride-Along Program Application) and a PD Form 370 (Scout Car Observer Program – Adult Release) prior to participating in the SAFE Ride-along Program.

NOTE: The SAFE advocate should list “up to eight (8) hours” in Box 10, “Ride Along Hours Requested” of the PD Form 369.

2. Watch commanders shall select non-transport units for the SAFE Ride-Along Program.
3. SAFE advocates participating in the SAFE Ride-Along Program:
 - a. Shall wait in the station lobby for their assigned MPD member;
or
 - b. With the approval of the watch commander, may attend roll call and brief members about OCAP and the resources they provide.
4. While participating in the SAFE Ride-Along Program, SAFE advocates shall:
 - a. Carry copies of their approved PD Forms 369 and 370.
 - b. Carry a valid identification card.

- c. Be attired in a SAFE t-shirt and/or wind-breaker that will identify them as SAFE advocates and not law enforcement officers.
 - d. Submit updated PD Forms 369 and 370 for approval every six (6) months.
5. Members accompanied by SAFE advocates shall go in-service and shall advise the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) that a SAFE advocate is present.
6. District members may request through OUC that units with SAFE advocates respond and assist with domestic violence victims who wish to speak to an advocate.
7. The Domestic Violence Coordinator, Domestic Violence Unit, shall:
- a. Maintain the original PD Forms 369 and 370 for each SAFE advocate participating in the SAFE Ride-Along Program.
 - b. Ensure SAFE advocates submit updated PD Forms 369 and 370 for approval every six (6) months.
 - c. Ensure District Commanders are apprised in advance of SAFE advocates who will be conducting ride-alongs in their districts.



Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police