



OFFICE OF
POLICE OMBUDSMAN
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May 11, 2016

Chief Craig Meidl
Spokane Police Division
1100 W. Mallon Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99260

RE: R16-04 – Provide information to parents of juvenile suspects

Dear Chief Meidl,

For record keeping purposes of the Office of the Police Ombudsman (“OPO”), I am formalizing previous recommendations made informally in 2016. Please find attached the letter I sent to then Director McDevitt in May 2016, following a complaint my office received, where I recommended the parents of juvenile suspects be provided information on their children.

In that case, the non-custodial parent was provided information on the juvenile suspect while the custodial parent was not provided any information on where the police took the juvenile after arrest or what came next. The custodial parent could not determine where the juvenile was taken after arrest. This left the custodial parent with numerous questions on the various processes that took place. Please see OPO’s response to the custodial parent in an effort to answer the questions. I recommended providing the information to both parents so they are kept in the loop on where their children are and so they know what subsequent steps they must take.

Sincerely,

Bart Logue
Police Ombudsman
Office of the Police Ombudsman, City of Spokane

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Mr. James McDevitt
Director of Law Enforcement
Spokane Police Division
1100 West Mallon Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99260

Dear Mr. McDevitt,

C 15-095/OPO #15-48. Upon review of the completed Internal Affairs investigation, I have determined the investigation to be thorough, timely, and objective.

This case provides a good example for Spokane Police Division ("SPD") to utilize in order to emphasize the following procedural and training topics for SPD: (1) procedural justice, (2) cultural sensitivity, (3) de-escalation, (4) complaint intake procedures, and (5) redaction/public records requests.

Lastly, the complainant did not receive any information regarding the arrest of the minor defendant. Although it is common to provide information to the victim, I am unaware of an existing policy to provide parents of a juvenile suspect information such as report numbers, officer name, and badge number. I recommend providing the information to the parents of juvenile suspects so the parents are kept in the loop as to what is happening with their children and what steps to take next.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at (509) 625-6742.

Best regards,

Bart Logue
Interim Ombudsman
Office of the Police Ombudsman