



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C19-056 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 6/11/2019
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Spokane Police Department officers responded to a report of Domestic Violence. Officers determined there was probable cause for arrest and arrested a suspect for domestic violence charges. Once handcuffed, the suspect let officers know that his young child was in the bathtub. Officers did not take off his handcuffs as requested, but put a towel around the child and dressed her. The complainant felt it was inappropriate for officers to tend to his daughter and they should have let him do it.

COMPLAINT

The allegation in this case was Inadequate Response.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs investigated the allegations, reviewing all available documentation including body worn camera (BWC) video. Investigators interviewed the involved officers and attempted to reach the complainant on two occasions but were unsuccessful. Officers stated that the complainant had become very agitated about his arrest. Officers feared that taking the suspect out of handcuffs to retrieve items and tend to his child, would compromise their officer safety as he could choose to flee or physically resist. Officers did not want the child's mother, the victim, to come back into the apartment while the suspect was still there because of the potential for a dispute with the suspect. One of the officers found the child and provided her a towel. He went into "dad mode" and dressed the child. BWC video showed the officer's demeanor was compassionate and calming.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

It was determined that the officers' actions were reasonable and prudent under the circumstances and did not violate SPD policy or state law. The case was closed as an Inquiry.