

**2.05-4**

**DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDER  
JUVENILE CHECK WELFARE**



**RICHARD S. BIEHL – DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE**

05/20

**POLICY STATEMENT**

This policy and its procedures will serve as guidelines to assist Dayton Police Department personnel in the response and follow up for juveniles that require an in-person check and evaluation of the circumstances outlined in a check welfare call.

**I. PURPOSE**

Periodically, we receive check welfare calls regarding juveniles in which the caller in has concerns about the physical safety of that juvenile. Many times, these calls are made by individuals that are mandated by State of Ohio to report their concerns of physical and sexual abuse and neglect. These individuals have received training in identifying abuse and neglect. The fact that we receive these calls from these trained individuals, should heighten our response to the seriousness of the call.

**II. INITIAL RESPONSE**

**A. Receiving a call for Check Welfare of a Juvenile**

When we receive these calls, we are required to verify the safety of the juvenile. If we respond and do not get an answer at the door or make contact, there is an expectation that a reasonable, articulated effort must be made to verify the juvenile's safety and welfare.

1. When we receive a check welfare call involving a juvenile, it is imperative that we physically meet with the child and ensure they are currently safe, will not be in harm's way after we leave, and see if they need any other services.
2. Officers will not take the "word" of a citizen or non-sworn law enforcement officer that the juvenile is "ok". Officers will physically view and meet with the juvenile.
3. Once you locate the juvenile, verify they are safe and check for signs of abuse, neglect, or any other indicators that the juvenile is not in a safe environment. If you have concerns about the juvenile's welfare, contact a supervisor, and handle per General Order 2.05-2.
4. If you respond to the juvenile's location and are unable to make contact with the juvenile (i.e. no answer at the door or the juvenile is not at home), this does not relieve you of your obligation.
  - a. Officers will use all investigative techniques at our disposal. This includes, making contact with the original caller in, neighbors, etc. to try and determine the juvenile's location.
  - b. Officers should contact Montgomery County Children's Services (CSB) to see if there is an open case or previous cases. CSB may also be able to provide different contact information for the juvenile.
5. If after all efforts have been made and there is still no contact with the juvenile, the officer will notify their supervisor of the situation. The check welfare call should stay "open" and followed up at least twice per shift until contact is made or the call is turned over to a Special Victims Unit Detective for follow-up. (This will usually happen the next business day morning.)
6. A memo will be completed by the responding officer that documents the circumstances of the call and the officer's actions. These include, but are not limited to:
  - a. The condition of the juvenile

- b. The steps taken to verify the condition
- c. The fact that CSB was contacted and their response
- d. The disposition of the juvenile
- e. The memo will be marked as "Special Victims Unit."

### III. SUPERVISORY RESPONSE

1. When you are notified of this situation, you are required to respond to the scene and evaluate the circumstances.
2. If the juvenile's welfare is not confirmed, you are to ensure that the call stays "open" and followed up on until the juvenile's welfare is confirmed. The call should be followed up on at least twice per shift.
3. Ensure that a memo has been completed.
4. Contact the Special Victims Unit Supervisor if you feel there are any unusual circumstances that need a SVU Detective response.