



**Committee for the
Coordination of Police
Services to Elderly Persons**

2016 Annual Report

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov

**New York State
Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons
2016 Annual Report**

This report is submitted by the Committee as required by Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. It details information about the Committee's activities and includes statistics from Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) involving elderly victims (65 or older) from the 57 counties in New York State outside of New York City.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services provides staff support to the Committee.

Issued September 2017

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York

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Executive Deputy Commissioner
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Table of Contents

Overview and Activities of the Committee	4
Future Activities of the Committee	5
Attachment A: Enabling Legislation, Committee Composition and Duties and Responsibilities	9
Attachment B: Committee Members	11

Overview

In 2016, the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons focused on developing and supporting training to improve the law enforcement response to elder abuse and raising awareness, among committee members and their constituents, of the resources available to elderly individuals.

The Committee met twice, on May 8 and December 15, 2016, at the offices of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany. The agency's Office of Public Safety (OPS) provides staff support to the Committee.

New York State Executive Law 844-b outlines the duties of the Committee, which include the support and development of programs, training, prevention practices and technical support to law enforcement agencies and service providers to combat crimes against the elderly.

To fulfill these duties, the Committee updated basic training for new police officers with respect to crimes against the elderly; is working toward the development of a resource tool kit for stakeholders to investigate elder abuse; and continues to provide technical assistance through specific agency programs.

Committee Activities

Law Enforcement Training

Law Enforcement Toolkit

At its December 2016 meeting, the Committee agreed to develop an online tool kit, which would allow law enforcement professionals to access and utilize resources from all disciplines involved in the fight against, and prevention of, elder abuse.

The Committee and the Office of Public Safety staff will survey law enforcement to better understand which resources would benefit officers in the field and work together in 2017 to compile those resources for the tool kit. The toolkit will be disseminated to law enforcement shortly in early 2018.

Basic Course for Police Officers: Crimes Against the Elderly

New York State requires municipal police officer recruits to complete the Basic Course for Police Officers, developed and approved by the state's Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC). The Council, which has eight members appointed by the Governor, is responsible for ensuring the course remains current and relevant to the needs of village, town, city and county police agencies and their future officers. DCJS provides staff support to the Council.

At the direction of the Council, a comprehensive review of the Basic Course for Police Officers is being conducted by DCJS staff. As part of that review, DCJS staff evaluated the existing four-hour block of instruction that focused on crimes against the elderly and crime prevention, drawing on expertise of Committee members.

The review resulted in recommendations that were accepted by the Council at its meeting in December 2016, including: dividing the four-hour block into two, two-hour sections, one focused on crimes against the elderly and the other, on crime prevention;

citing common crimes and identifying various schemes affecting the elderly; and detailing strategies for law enforcement agencies and warning signs of scams.

Program Support

Committee members have discussed the following programs and activities during their meetings. These initiatives are supported by the Committee and the discussions are designed to facilitate information-sharing among Committee members and others in attendance focused on elder justice.

New York State Judicial Committee on Elder Justice

The Judicial Committee on Elder Justice works with stakeholders across the state to promote consistent outcomes in domestic violence cases, as well as addressing elder justice issues. Additional subcommittees have been formed, including community outreach, education, interagency coordination, legislative initiatives, policy and procedure, and research data collection and technology.

A key focus of the Committee is training all court personnel on the aging process and how it impacts court procedures. Personnel are taught how to identify elder abuse and its risk factors, as well as cultural factors that can influence behavior in elder litigants. Judicial Committee members expressed interest in collaborating with Committee members and their stakeholders on future initiatives.

Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams (eMDTs)

The New York State Office for the Aging, in collaboration with the state Office of Children and Family Services, currently supports two Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams: one in Manhattan and the other in the Finger Lakes region. The teams bring together professionals from a variety of disciplines – adult protective services, finance, criminal justice, victim assistance, health care, religion and mental health – with the goal of improving cooperation and streamlining assistance for better outcomes for the elderly individuals.

This initiative targets frail adults who are at least 60 years old with a physical or cognitive impairment, or who experience social isolation. The Committee supported the mission of these teams by developing through training and implementation of forensic accounting and geriatric psychiatry programs. Implementing such programs will increase the knowledge base of the enhanced multidisciplinary teams and further assist the targeted elderly population.

The creation of the teams is the result of the State of New York receiving a federal grant called Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions grant initiatives in 2012. The grant is funded by the Administration on Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The teams have served more than 220 older adults since their inception. Each team has a coordinator to manage cases and provide further information to the rest of the team members. District attorneys' offices play an active role in each team and police departments and sheriffs' offices were asked to participate in the teams as well. Coordinators also notify law enforcement and other relevant individuals upon receiving a new case to determine if law enforcement was already aware of, or involved with, the case.

Future Activities of the Committee

The Committee and staff from the DCJS Office of Public Safety staff will continue to identify programs – in consultation with experts, service providers and representative organizations engaged in safeguarding the elderly – designed to assist law enforcement in the protection of elderly persons against crimes.

In addition, the Committee will continue to include representatives from other disciplines in future meetings to further encourage communication and information-sharing.

Committee members will also continue to collaborate to determine the most efficient ways to utilize the information provided at meetings to improve the quality of life of senior citizens in New York State.

2016 Domestic Incident Reports involving Elderly Victims
(Age 65 and Older, Upstate and Long Island counties)

- Law enforcement agencies in 57 counties Upstate and on Long Island completed 6,983 DIRs involving victims who were 65 years old or older.
 - **Victim Demographics:**
 - The majority were female: 61.9 percent (4,320)
 - Nearly three-quarters (73.4%) were white; 16.9 percent were black; 4.7 percent Hispanic and 2.7 percent were from other racial/ethnic groups.
 - The median age was 71 years old and more victims ranged in age from 65 to 69 (43.7%) than any other age group.
 - **Suspect Demographics:**
 - The majority were male: 62.1 percent (4,334).
 - Their race/ethnicity was similar to that of victims: 69.9 percent white; 18.3 percent black, 5.4 percent Hispanic and 2.8 percent from other racial/ethnic groups.
 - The median age was 42 years old and more suspects ranged in age from 40 to 49 years old (19%) than any other age group.
 - **Orders of Protection**
 - Orders of Protection were in effect in 9.8 percent (685) of DIRs and a violation was reported in 36.1 percent (247) of those DIRs.

Note: *Some reports may be missing certain demographic or order of protection information. Percentages cited here are based on totals that include missing or unknown values. See Table 1 for more information.*

**Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims
(Age 65 and older), Upstate and Long Island, 2016**

	Upstate and Long Island	
	2016	
	#	%
Total Elderly Incidents	6,983	100.0%
Victim Gender		
Male	2,593	37.1%
Female	4,320	61.9%
Missing	70	1.0%
Suspect Gender		
Male	4,334	62.1%
Female	2,550	36.5%
Missing	99	1.4%
Victim Race/Ethnicity		
White	5,129	73.4%
Black	1,177	16.9%
Hispanic	329	4.7%
Other	189	2.7%
Missing	159	2.3%
Suspect Race/Ethnicity		
White	4,884	69.9%
Black	1,279	18.3%
Hispanic	375	5.4%
Other	194	2.8%
Missing	251	3.6%
Victim Age Group		
65 to 69	3,055	43.7%
70 to 74	1,710	24.5%
75 to 79	1,063	15.2%
80 and over	1,155	16.5%
Median Age	71	
Suspect Age Group		
5 to 15	287	4.1%
16 to 19	486	7.0%
20 to 29	1,187	17.0%

30 to 39	1,136	16.3%
40 to 49	1,326	19.0%
50 to 59	1,081	15.5%
60 to 69	695	10.0%
70 and over	651	9.3%
Missing	134	1.9%
Median Age	42	
Order of Protection (OP)	685	9.8%
of OPs, Order Violated	247	36.1%

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository.

Preliminary data subject to change

Includes DIRs completed in 2016 and included in the Repository as of 5/1/17

Note: *Information provided in previous reports detailing suspect/victim relationship, offenses committed, and the presence of the suspect at the scene when police arrived is no longer available.*

Attachment A: Enabling Legislation and Committee Composition

Chapter III of the Laws of 1993 established the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons.

As required by Section 844-b (2) (a) of New York State Executive Law, the Committee is composed of 16 members appointed by the DCJS Commissioner.

Committee membership must include: one representative of DCJS and the following state agencies: the New York State Police; Office of Victim Services; Office for the Aging; and the Office of Children and Family Services; two representatives each from the District Attorneys' Association of New York State; state Association of Chiefs of Police; and the New York State Sheriffs' Association; one representative each from the Attorney General's Office; the New York City Police Department; the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition; and two representatives from the Legislature, one appointed by Senate President and the other by the Assembly Speaker. Additionally, a representative from the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) serves on the Committee, replacing the position designated for the commissioner of the state's former Department of Social Services (as prescribed in Section 844-b).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Consult with experts, service providers, and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly.
- Recommend the development of "Triad" or related programs in New York State, if appropriate, to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide services for the elderly.
- Recommend policies and programs, if appropriate, to assist law enforcement agencies to implement "Triad" and related programs, including training and prevention standards and technical assistance. Such recommendations may include:
 - (1) The establishment of a statewide and central clearinghouse of information and education materials.
 - (2) The development of innovative community police programs for the elderly.
 - (3) Providing assistance to the Municipal Police Training Council in the development and delivery of training to law enforcement professionals involved in "Triad Programs," including, but not limited to: crimes against the elderly and the protection of elderly persons; police sensitivity to the needs of elderly persons as victims and witnesses; and social and human services.
 - (4) Providing assistance to State and local law enforcement officials and not-for-profit corporations and other organizations with respect to effective policies and responses to crimes against elderly persons.

- (5) Promoting and facilitating cooperation among State agencies and local units of government.
- (6) Effective advocacy of services to protect elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.
- (7) Evaluating the relationship between crimes against elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly persons, and making recommendations for effective policy response.
- (8) The collection of statistical data and research.

Attachment B: Committee Members *(as of December 2016)*

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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New York State Association of Chiefs of Police

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New York State Office of Victim Services

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New York State Office of Attorney General

Gary S. Brown, Assistant Attorney General-In-Charge
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New York City Police Department

Vacant (nomination not received)

New York State Senate

Vacant (nomination not received)

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Vacant (nomination not received)

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