



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Parental/Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts
January 1 to December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2024-02-28

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) is in compliance with By-Law 295-2010 – Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board concerning parental and non-parental abductions and attempts.
- This report is submitted to provide the Board with the required information relating to the Service's written procedures and response to parental and non-parental abductions and attempts.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations relating to the recommendations within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 295-2010, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect to parental and non-parental abductions and attempts. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning investigations into parental and non-parental abductions and attempts;
- b) Confirmation that the procedures are in compliance with the Ministry's designated Ontario Major Case Management Manual;
- c) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- d) A summary of training given to members regarding parental and non-parental abductions and attempts.

The following is a detailed response to each of the above-noted requirements:

- a) *“...a summary of the written procedures concerning investigations into parental and non-parental abductions and attempts...”*

General Order (GO) – 173.10 Parental and Non-Parental Abductions was prepared and approved to comply with the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation, Law Enforcement LE-040 – Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts, and the Ontario Major Case Management (OMCM) Manual. GO 173.10 Parental and Non-Parental Abductions includes the Ontario Amber Alert Protocol.

In summary, it is the policy of the Service to investigate all instances of parental and non-parental abductions and attempts in accordance with GOs: 095.10 Major Incidents and Routine Criminal Investigations, 076.13 Missing Persons, 084.08 Child Abuse and Neglect, including the Memorandum of Understanding with Family and Children Services Niagara and to manage these investigations in accordance with the OMCM Manual.

- b) *“...confirmation that the procedures are in compliance with the Ministry’s designated Ontario Major Case Management Manual...”*

GO 173.10 Parental and Non-Parental Abductions has been structured to comply with the legislated requirements of the regulations and to address the procedures contained in the OMCM Manual. A revised version of the OMCM Manual was released on December 1, 2017, and a subsequent review of Service procedures has confirmed compliance with the latest version of the manual.

The Service previously underwent a review of Adequacy Standards by the Ministry of Public Safety and Security and was found to be in compliance with the standards.

- c) *“...the status of Service compliance with the said procedures...”*

Violent Crime Analysts, under the direction of the Officer in Charge of the Special Victims Unit, monitor calls for service in order to ensure that all incidents involving non-parental abductions and attempts are investigated and managed in accordance with Service policy and the OMCM Manual. In addition, all reports are reviewed by a staff sergeant or detective sergeant in the district where the offence occurred and assigned to a detective for investigation.

- d) *“...a summary of training given to members regarding parental and non-parental abductions and attempts ...”*

An extensive range of specialized training is required and provided to investigators engaged in the investigation of parental and non-parental abductions and attempts.

In 2023, 10 members received the OMCM Course. The OMCM course includes components relevant to the investigation of parental and non-parental abductions and attempts and the management of these cases.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of the Police Services Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with the provisions with the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 295-2010 - Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts
General Order 173.10 - Parental and Non-Parental Abductions
General Order 095.10 - Major Incidents & Routine Criminal Investigations
General Order 076.13 - Missing Persons
General Order 084.08 - Child Abuse and Neglect

Other Pertinent Reports

8.11.2023.03.23 – Annual Report – Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts – January 1 to December 31, 2022.

This report was prepared by Andrew Knevel, Staff Sergeant, Major Crime Unit, in consultation with and reviewed by Mike Casella, Acting Inspector, Investigative Support Services and Steve Magistrale, Acting Superintendent, Emergency and Investigative Services. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.