

**Palm Beach County
DUI Homicide Grant Project
IDEA Taskforce**

Best Practices for Law Enforcement

The mission of the DUI Homicide Project Impaired Driving Death Enhanced Assistance Taskforce (IDEA) is to provide a coordinated community response to ensure that every survivor or family members of an impaired driving death receives prompt, critical support in accessing available resources, services, and navigating the criminal justice system.

Once emergency medical care of any surviving victims has been addressed, the primary objective for law enforcement will be to determine if the crash occurred due to suspected drug or alcohol impairment, request a Victim Advocate respond to the scene, provide Death Notification to the Next of Kin alongside the Victim Advocate.

A. Law Enforcement's arrival on scene

1. Follow established agency response procedures:

- a. Initial assessment
- b. Scene safety
- c. Treat and transport according to local agency medical protocols
- d. Evidence preservation
- e. Maintain scene security and evidence preservation until turned over to THI
- f. Scene documentation
- g. Emotional support- facilitate until Victim Advocate arrives

B. Requesting Immediate Response of a Victim Advocate

1. Cases that require an immediate response include:

- a. Suspected or confirmed DUI crash resulting in death
- b. Suspected or confirmed DUI crash resulting in serious bodily injury with likelihood of death
- c. Family is arriving on scene of a suspected or confirmed DUI crash resulting in death or serious bodily injury with the likelihood of death
- d. Death Notification- this should be completed alongside the Victim Advocate
- e. Incident deemed necessary by Sergeant and Palm Beach County Victim Services Duty Supervisor

2. Law Enforcement will call the Violent Crime Helpline 561-833-7273 daytime or after hours, request an immediate response of a Victim Advocate, and provide the following information:

- a. Summary of the incident, including location

- b. Victim's condition, extent of injuries, and location
- c. Victim's name and DOB
- d. Next of Kin (NOK) name and contact information
- e. Name, agency, and phone number of Investigator
- f. Location Victim Advocate should respond to and directions to crash site

C. Requesting a Delayed Response of a Victim Advocate

- 1. Cases that do not require an immediate response of a Victim Advocate include:**
 - a. Delayed fatality
 - b. Crime not yet determined
 - c. Hit and run
 - d. NOK is located out of county or state

- 2. Within 24 hours of the crash, law enforcement will call the Violent Crime Helpline 561-833-7273 to have a Victim Advocate assigned**