

July, 2005

## **Revised Domestic Disturbance Report Form**

ORS 181.550 requires all law enforcement agencies to report incidents of domestic disturbance to the Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (OUCR) program. The report form in use by OUCR for a number of years has led to a great deal of confusion for some agencies and/or when new personnel are required to complete them. In an effort to ease some of that confusion, we have re-formatted the report form. **There is nothing new to this form; it is only a change in format.** Agencies reporting domestic disturbance through Oregon's NIBRS format need not complete separate domestic disturbance reporting forms.

### **What constitutes a domestic disturbance crime?**

*Domestic disturbance crimes occur between spouses, former spouses or **adult** persons related by blood, marriage or adoption, persons residing together or who formerly resided together, persons who have been involved in a sexually intimate relationship with each other within the past 2 years or unmarried parents of a child.*

As per ORS 133.055, sec.2a

### **How are domestic disturbance figures submitted to OUCR?**

Agencies reporting under Oregon's NIBRS format (frequently referred to as OUCR-2) report their domestic disturbance figures through their normal monthly statistics report. All other agencies need to submit a separate report form once each quarter. For clarification, there are 4 quarters for each year. January through March makes up the first quarter, April through June the second, July through September the third and October through December the fourth.

The incidents reported during each quarter are a **sub-set of all incidents** an agency has investigated for the quarter. For example, if an agency investigates 50 simple assaults during a given quarter and 30 of those assaults are domestic disturbance assaults, the agency will report all 50 simple assaults through their normal monthly statistics report to OUCR and submit a separate report form for the quarter showing 30 simple assaults. By reporting in this manner we can say 30 of the agency's 50 simple assaults were domestic disturbance related.

The **incorrect** way of reporting would be to submit 20 simple assaults (those that were not domestic-related) via the normal monthly report and report the 30 domestic-related simple assaults on the domestic disturbance report form. Doing so would indicate that 30 of the 20 simple assaults reported by the agency were domestic related. **You can never have more offenses or arrests on your domestic disturbance report than what you have already reported through your normal monthly statistics report for the same time period.**

## **What offenses do agencies report on the Domestic Disturbance form?**

There are 10 specific offenses reported on the form. They are Homicide, Forcible Rape, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Simple Assault, Vandalism, Other Sex Crimes, Disorderly Conduct (includes Harassment), Criminal Trespass and Criminal Threat (includes Menacing).

All offenses not listed above are reported on the domestic disturbance form as “All Other Crimes”. For example, if an offender steals the victim’s vehicle as part of a domestic disturbance, it would be reported as auto theft in your normal monthly statistics report, but as All Other Crime on the domestic disturbance form.

The report form provides space for the number of offenses that were reported and the number of subsequent arrests. Because of the way Oregon’s domestic disturbance laws are written, it is sometimes possible to have more arrests than offenses. An example of this would be an incident where both parties in a domestic disturbance assaulted each other. In this case, there would be one simple assault *offense* resulting in 2 *arrests*.

Frequently law enforcement agencies respond to “family beef” incidents where some sort of disturbance is being reported, but no real crime has occurred. These “**non-criminal**” incidents can be due to the caller perceiving a problem where there is none, or an actual minor disturbance where the responding officer(s) cannot make an arrest because no true crime has occurred. Since these incidents require a police response and pull police away from other duties, these incidents should be reported on the domestic disturbance report form as “Non-Criminal Domestic Disturbance” if at all possible. A section is provided on the form for this purpose.

Finally, violations of restraining orders and stalking orders are reported in a separate section at the bottom of the report form. Report violations and arrests on restraining / stalking orders in this section **only**. **Do not** include these offenses/arrests as All Other Crimes.

## **What if an agency has no domestic disturbance incidents during a quarter?**

If an agency has no domestic disturbance information to report, a report form indicating that fact still needs to be submitted to OUCR. Otherwise, the assumption will be that the agency failed to report rather than that the agency had nothing to report.

## **Can the old forms still be submitted?**

Yes. As long as the agency reports offenses and arrests using the same 10 specific offense / arrest categories mentioned above and uses the “all other” code for everything that does not fit into any of the other 10 categories.

**What if an agency is part of a “regional” computer system that sends in domestic disturbance reports for all agencies on that system?**

If your agency is a part of a regional system that has been submitting domestic disturbance reports for you in the past, you do not need to begin submitting reports just because the report form has changed. As long as your regional computer system continues to submit domestic disturbance reports for your agency, there is no need for your agency or your regional system to make any changes. The intent of this format change is to alleviate some of the confusion some agencies have experienced in the past in completing the domestic disturbance report form.

**Where do we send these forms once they’re completed?**

All correspondence to OUCR should be mailed to:

Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting  
C/O Oregon State Police  
P.O. Box 14360  
Salem, OR 97309-5074

Forms may be faxed to 503-364-2661

Staff telephone numbers are:

Jeff Bock	503-378-3055 ext. 55002
Susan Hardy	503-378-3055 ext. 55008
Nancy Wilson	503-378-3055 ext. 55017

Remember, this form is not something new! This is only a revision to the appearance of a form that has been in use for many years. All reporting requirements are exactly the same as they have been since domestic disturbance reporting became law in 1994.