

Crimes of a sexual nature are particularly heinous and traumatic for victims. In addition to conducting thorough investigations of any reported sex-based crimes, we partner with advocacy groups, prosecutors and other government agencies to ensure a coordinated approach and open dialogue on preventing sexual assault, responding to those incidents that do occur, and seeking justice for victims. Additionally, CPD recently enhanced training to ensure detectives are equipped as strongly as possible to investigate criminal sexual assault complaints.

In regards to training, we have put approximately 450 of our detectives through a 40 hour in-service class. Among the topics covered related to CSAs include Interviews and Interrogations, Line-Ups, Electronic Recording of Interviews (ERI), Buccal Swabs (for DNA), DNA/CODIS, Computer Evidence and Post Conviction Issues, just to name a few. This is separate from the 10 week training that all newly promoted detectives are required to take. The detectives promotion training has several classes directly focused on or related to CSA investigations.

Background Information:

Each of the three Detective Areas has a Violent Crime (VC) section. Criminal Sexual Assaults (CSAs) fall under the VC office. There are sergeants in each Area on 2nd and 3rd watch who are the sex crime coordinators. And yes there are detectives that are assigned to investigate sex crime cases. Both the sergeants and detectives report to the Area VC Lieutenant. The Area sergeants who are the sex coordinators are responsible for identifying rape patterns or community alerts.

In addition to the Areas our Special Investigation Unit (SIU) handles sex cases involving victims who are minors. Generally they handle sex crime cases in which the victim is a juvenile and the offender is a relative or person of trust and authority.

We as a department are part of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office task force on CSAs. The task force meets monthly and is comprised of CPD, the State's Attorney's office and numerous victim advocates and advocate agencies. Our Chief of Detectives has met with advocates regularly to not only hear about their concerns but allow them to have input on the type of training and procedures we put in place.