

CRIMINAL ORDINANCE

CHAPTER F--DOMESTIC ABUSE

Article 600: DOMESTIC ABUSE

1 (A) "Domestic abuse" defined shall mean any criminal act relating to use of force, violence, with or without a dangerous weapon, material, item, or device by one family or household member against or upon another family or household member.

(B) "Household member" defined shall be any family member, extended or otherwise, related by blood or marriage, or any person who resides in the house, formerly resided in the house, and shall include the elderly or handicapped.

(C) A law enforcement officer may without an arrest warrant, arrest a person anywhere, including the residence, the officer has probable cause to believe that the person within the proceeding four (4) hours, has committed an act of domestic abuse as noted in subsection (a) above. This shall be permitted even though the officer did not see the act of the assault or abuse but has observed a recent injury, or other form of impairment, on the alleged victim.

(D) A law enforcement officer shall not discourage a victim of domestic abuse from pressing charges against the assailant of the victim, however, the law enforcement officer may require the victim to sign a complaint in such case.

(E) Punishment: Any person found guilty of domestic abuse shall be punished to same extent as if the crime had been a battery.