Why Consider Victim Economic Security?

- The safety of victims of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking is inextricably linked to their economic security.
- Protecting victims’ economic security can make them better able – and more likely – to cooperate with the investigation.
- Victims are less likely to return to an abuser or suffer additional attacks if officers take steps to support their economic security.
- Economic evidence and arrests for economic crimes can improve an officer’s ability to hold offenders accountable by increasing the success of court actions.
- Securing economic justice for victims can boost future reporting.

Investigation & Interview Questions:

□ Does the offender currently have any of your property? (Phone, ID, credit cards, keys, etc.)

⇒ Retrieve prior to arrest/booking.

□ Did the offender destroy anything you need for immediate safety, to get to work/school, or to pay bills?

□ Has the offender taken any of your money, including paychecks?

□ What out-of-pocket costs have you incurred? (Bills, relocation, emergency contraception, security equipment, etc.)

□ Does the offender have keys to your home, work or car?

□ Do you have access to your bank account and other finances? Does the offender?

□ Have you been intimidated or threatened financially?

□ Are there any documents you need to collect and keep safe? (Visas, passport, social security card, etc.)

□ Have you had to take security measures or change your routine?

⇒ What costs were associated?

⇒ Did it affect your housing, school or job?

□ Does the offender know the passwords to your computers, accounts or phone?

□ Has the offender forced you to commit any economic crimes?

□ Is the offender in a position of power over your job, school, scholarship, or housing?

□ Will anything prevent you from cooperating with the investigation or calling in the future?

Red Flags of Economic Issues at the Scene of the Crime:

□ Is the victim hesitant to let officers in the home?

□ Is the victim hesitant to have the offender arrested?

□ Did the offender take or have the only car or house keys?

□ Does the offender have the only credit card or is the only one with access to shared bank accounts?

□ Does the victim have nowhere else to go?

□ Is the offender translating for a limited English proficiency victim?

□ Is the offender hesitant or unwilling to turn over a laptop or cell phone?

□ Did the victim delay reporting the assault because of school or work-based concerns?
Economic-Related Evidence Collection:

- Photographs of injuries and property damage
- Lists and prices of damaged or stolen items
- Medical history and cost as a result of the violence (may be ongoing)
- Documentation of missed work or school as a result of the violence (may be ongoing)
- Financial documents showing costs of the violence (bills, bank statements, invoices, credit reports, receipts, canceled checks, etc.)
- Documentation of economic abuse or coerced economic crimes

Chargeable Economic-Related Crimes*:

- Assault and/or Battery
- Breaking and Entering
- Destruction of Property/Property Damage/Destruction of Evidence
- Electronic Surveillance or Cyber-stalking
- Forgery
- Fraud
- Harassment
- Identity Theft
- Reckless or Negligent Injury
- Strangulation
- Theft/Robbery/Larceny
- Trespassing
- Wiretapping
- Witness intimidation or threats

* Beyond Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking. Statutes may vary depending on jurisdiction.

To access the full Law Enforcement Guide to Safety and Economic Security for Victims of Violence Against Women, see: