



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

20-117
07/23/20

Phone Ping during Homicide Incidents

While investigating a homicide incident, officers may come upon cell phone information related to an outstanding suspect. Occasionally, there may be a life-threatening need to locate someone as soon as possible.

Members **SHALL NOT** use dispatch to initiate exigent phone ping (Geolocation) under any circumstances. If a member is faced with a situation that they believe merits an exigent ping of a phone number, they shall notify a supervisor who will confer with the appropriate Homicide detail investigator before initiating any action. If an exigent phone ping is determined to be justified, the Homicide investigator will make arrangements to set up the phone ping.

Members are reminded that the provisions of penal code sections 1546-1546.4 apply to exigent phone ping and that any member requesting one will be required to comply with this statute – including the application for a search warrant of the affected number within three court days of obtaining the phone ping, notification to the authorized possessor, subsequent return of the search warrant and appropriate investigative documentation of their actions.

Legal consequences for non-compliance may include evidence suppression, as well as civil and criminal liability.

Members who have questions regarding this policy may call the Homicide Unit at (415) 553-1145 for clarification.


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DB 20-081, sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this Department Bulletin in HRMS. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional guidance about the directive.