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CRJS 215S – Introduction to Criminology

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Mandatory Arrest for Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue in modern society. The World Health Organization defines domestic violence as any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to one or both partners. Domestic violence is not just limited to physical abuse; it can take various forms such as emotional, verbal, and financial abuse. Studies have shown that domestic violence has severe impacts on victims, including physical and emotional harm, post-traumatic stress disorder, and sometimes even death. In light of this, mandatory arrest policies have been introduced to help prevent and reduce domestic violence.

Mandatory arrest policies require police officers to make an arrest when responding to a domestic violence incident. This policy has gained popularity in recent years, with many states and countries implementing it. The primary objective of mandatory arrest policies is to provide immediate protection to the victim and to deter the perpetrator from committing further acts of violence.

One of the benefits of mandatory arrest policies is that they help victims of domestic violence to receive immediate protection. In many cases, victims of domestic violence are reluctant to report the abuse or seek help because of the fear of retaliation from the abuser. Mandatory arrest policies help to remove the burden of making the decision to report from the victim and place it

on the police. By making an arrest, the police offer the victim immediate protection, which can reduce the likelihood of further violence occurring.

Another advantage of mandatory arrest policies is that they serve as a deterrent to perpetrators of domestic violence. Knowing that they will be arrested for committing acts of violence can dissuade perpetrators from engaging in such behavior in the first place. Moreover, mandatory arrest policies send a message to society that domestic violence will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions. This, in turn, can help to change attitudes towards domestic violence, reducing its prevalence in society.

Opponents of mandatory arrest policies argue that they can result in false arrests and unnecessary use of police resources. They contend that mandatory arrest policies can lead to the arrest of innocent individuals or individuals who acted in self-defense. While this is a valid concern, mandatory arrest policies can be structured in a way that minimizes the likelihood of false arrests. For example, police officers can use their discretion when responding to domestic violence incidents to assess the situation and determine whether an arrest is necessary.

In conclusion, mandatory arrest policies for domestic violence are essential in protecting victims and reducing the prevalence of domestic violence in society. These policies offer immediate protection to victims and serve as a deterrent to perpetrators of domestic violence. While opponents of these policies may argue that they can result in false arrests, proper implementation of mandatory arrest policies can minimize this risk. Overall, mandatory arrest policies are an effective tool in combating domestic violence and ensuring the safety and well-being of victims.

Works Cited

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