



## AFP Practical Guide on initial response to extortion, product contamination and kidnapping for ransom (ACT Policing)

### 1. Disclosure and compliance

This document is classified **IN-CONFIDENCE** and is intended for internal AFP use.

Disclosing any content must comply with Commonwealth law and the [AFP National Guideline on disclosure of information](#).

#### Compliance

This instrument is part of the AFP's professional standards framework. The [AFP Commissioner's Order on Professional Standards \(CO2\)](#) outlines the expectations for appointees to adhere to the requirements of the framework. Inappropriate departures from the provisions of this instrument may constitute a breach of AFP professional standards and be dealt with under Part V of the [Australian Federal Police Act 1979](#) (Cth).

### 2. Acronyms

<b>AFP</b>	Australian Federal Police
s37(2)(b), s47E(d)	

### 3. Definitions

**Accountable document** – means notebooks, diaries, and field books required to be managed as AFP records.

**Extortion** – for the purpose of this guideline, refers to a demand for financial benefit accompanied by threats to kill, inflict grievous bodily harm or endanger the health, safety or physical wellbeing of another person (pursuant to s. 32 of the [Crimes Act 1900](#) (ACT)).

**Kidnapping** – is defined in s. 38 of the [Crimes Act 1900](#) (ACT).

**Offender** – means a person involved or suspected of being involved in the commission of an offence.

**Product contamination** – is defined in ss. 135 – 139 of the [Crimes Act 1900](#) (ACT).

**Ransom** – means any item (money or other valuable) demanded by the offender.

**Victim** – the person, family or organisation to which the demand is made and/or subjected to an extortion, product contamination or kidnapping for ransom. Consequently, there may be multiple victims or the potential for multiple victims.

## 4. Guideline authority

This guideline was issued by the Chief Police Officer for the ACT using power under s. 37(1) of the [Australian Federal Police Act 1979](#) (Cth) as delegated by the Commissioner under s. 69C of the Act.

## 5. Introduction

This Practical Guide outlines the procedures to be applied for initial response to incidents involving extortion, product contamination or kidnapping for ransom. This guideline should be read in conjunction with the [Aide Memoire on Response Plan for Kidnapping for Ransom \(ACT Policing\)](#) and the [Aide Memoire on Response Plan – Extortion and Product Contamination \(ACT Policing\)](#).

Whilst the offence of kidnapping covers a variety of motivations, this practical guide focuses on kidnapping for ransom and not other forms of abduction with non-financial motives (e.g. sexual, custodial or spousal).

Members should also be aware that ss. 140 and 140D [Crimes Act 1900](#) (ACT) state that it is immaterial that the conduct occurred outside the ACT if the person intended to cause public alarm in the ACT, or cause economic loss to the ACT through public awareness of the contamination or possibility of contamination.

## 6. Policy

s37(2)(b), s47E(d)

## 7. Legislation

The relevant legislation includes the:

- [Crimes Act 1900](#) (ACT), in particular:
  - s. 38 Kidnapping
  - s. 32 Demands accompanied by threats
  - s. 34 Forcible confinement
  - ss. 135 – 140D Product contamination
- [Food Act 2001](#) (ACT)
- [Public Health Act 1997](#) (ACT) (ss. 119 – 123).

## 8. Initial report

The appointee receiving the initial report must:

- assure the victim that the priority for police is their safety and/or the safety of the general public
- record all details of the victim(s) in an accountable document
- inform the shift supervisor of the incident before terminating contact
- ensure the ACT Policing Operations team leader is contacted immediately for subsequent notifications

s37(2)(b), s47E(d)

### **Kidnapping/ransom**

Following notifications from the appointee receiving the initial report, ACT Policing Operations must ensure both the Police Negotiation Team and Criminal Investigations (via the Criminal Investigations Reception Officer) are contacted immediately for notification, advice and attendance.

### **Additional Notifications**

Where the response to any incident may also require significant investigations, response or risks to health or wellbeing outside the ACT, notifications must be made s37(2)(b), s47E(d) and state/territory law enforcement agencies as soon as practicable by Criminal Investigation investigators and/or ACT Policing Operations.

## 9. Further advice

Queries about the content of this guideline should be referred to Superintendent Criminal Investigations.

## 10. References

### Legislation

- [Australian Federal Police Act 1979](#) (Cth)
- [Crimes Act 1900](#) (ACT)
- [Food Act 2001](#) (ACT)
- [Public Health Act 1997](#) (ACT)

### AFP governance

- [AFP Commissioner's Order on Professional Standards \(CO2\)](#)
- [AFP National Guideline on disclosure of information](#)

### Other sources

s37(2)(b), s47E(d)