

For my current event discussion 5, I wanted to speak on police discretion with domestic violence cases. As we all know domestic violence is one of the most difficult cases officers have to deal with in today's society. A simple disagreement between a couple could spark a physical altercation that could possibly lead to the extreme like death or jail time. The reason I decided to do this topic is because of how different officers handle the situation. Sometimes officers can find a solution and sometimes officers just flat out ignore the situation completely. Below I have found an article about women who have tried to report their significant other to the cops for domestic violence but didn't quite get the outcome they expected.

I have found an article reported by BBC News three days ago in regards to police failing to investigate abuse complaints by women. Several women are now currently accusing Devon and Cornwall police force failing to investigate serving or former officers for abuse and sexual violence. But there was one case that caught my eye as it was called a 'Blinkered' investigation. A former female officer reported after she left the force, she was physically abused by her ex. There was even an instance where her ex physically held her in a stranglehold in front of the neighbors when outside one time. Not knowing what to do next, she calls the police with hopes to put an end to all of this. Police arrive shortly after her phone call, where she can be seen sitting outside with bruises and scratches all over her. Her and their neighbor both explain what happened to the officers but they ended up dismissing them and not recording it as a crime. It was later found out that one of the officers recognized her ex and simply "let it slide". The craziest part of all of this is that her ex was then promoted in the police force where he was then dealing with sexual offenses and domestic violence cases, Ironic right?

This brings me to talk about police discretion. In class we went over how Minneapolis police tried three different approaches to domestic violence calls. The three approaches used were arresting the individual, allowing 8 hour separation, and counseling given by the officers. Arresting the individual seemed to be the most effective way after looking at all the data. But from the case above the individual was not arrested nor were the other two methods used either. This is simply because of police discretion, the officer knowing who the suspect was made him react in a different way as he didn't want to get him in trouble or cause problems between their friendship. This is unacceptable as an officer as their job is to at least try to deescalate the situation. Discretion cannot be taken out of policing as it allows them to do their job. It's just more so if it is going to have a positive or negative effect on the situation.

Media: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68242197>