



POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS

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| new: ✓ rescinds: ✓ amends: 50.6 | | cross-reference: |
| effective date: October, 2011 | | amend date: July, 2020 |
| | | accreditation standards: NYSLEAP Standard(s): 50.6 |

I. POLICY

The polygraph examination may be utilized to test the truthfulness of suspects, witnesses, and victims. The polygraph examination is an investigative tool to be utilized as a supplement to a thorough investigation, and shall not be utilized as a substitute for a complete and thorough investigation or proper interview.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Polygraph Utilization

1. A properly administered polygraph examination takes a minimum of two to three hours. This includes time for the examiner to prepare and administer the examination and report their findings. Time is not available to examine every suspect merely because they have been identified as such.
2. An investigator can be reasonably certain that a polygraph examination is indicated when the development of all known investigative leads has failed to eliminate suspicion of suspects among several logical suspects; or when the statement by a suspect or victim contradicts all or most evidence.
3. Utilization of polygraph examinations is not indicated when there are other investigative leads that should be logically pursued for the purpose of obtaining hard admissible evidence.
4. The polygraph examiner should be consulted to determine how a polygraph examination may be most beneficial to a specific investigation.
5. Examination results cannot serve as a final determinate; rather they should be used to develop leads and verify, corroborate or refute statements or refute an allegation(s) that cannot be verified or disproved by other investigative means.
6. Juveniles will not be examined unless at least one parent or legal guardian attends the examination, and/or signs the permission form.

B. Requests for Polygraph Examinations

1. Investigators requesting a polygraph examination shall first obtain approval from the Lieutenant in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division.
2. Once approval has been granted, the investigator requesting the examination shall:
 - a. Fully brief the polygraph examiner;
 - b. Provide the examiner with the case package, including all available information;
 - c. Inform the person who is taking the examination of the date, exact time, and location of the examination;
 - d. If the exam has been scheduled more than 48 hours in advance, attempt to contact the subject one day in advance to confirm their scheduled appointment;
 - e. Notify the polygraph examiner of any cancellations;
 - f. Investigators will not interrogate a subject just before they are to take an examination. The subject shall be permitted a “cooling-off” period following an interrogation, intense interview, or if they are displaying extreme emotion.
 - g. Investigators will not attempt to explain procedures that will be used in the examination, but shall advise the subject that the procedures will be explained by the examiner. Examinees should be advised that the:
 - Exam is voluntary.
 - Results of the examination are not acceptable in a court of law unless all parties agree in advance.
 - Results of an examination taken alone do not provide substantiation for a criminal charge.
 - h. Attend the examination to monitor and observe, both visually and audibly, the entire examination; and
 - i. Following the examination; obtain written statements as applicable.

C. Authorized Contact for Polygraph Examiners:

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation – [REDACTED]
2. Cortland City Police – [REDACTED]

By Order Of



Derek Osborne
Sheriff