
	<b>Florida State University Police Department</b>	
<b>INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS</b>		
Revision Effective Date: 09/05/17	<b>General Order 804</b>	Attachments: None
Rescinds/Amends: 10-18C (8/16/10), 04-300-38	Distribution: Department-Wide  Pages: 2	CFA Reference: 15.06

### Policy - Interviews and Interrogations

The purpose of this directive is to govern the actions of police officers concerning applicable constitutional requirements to suspects and defendants including: interviewing and interrogating and the right to legal counsel. A police officer is constitutionally bound to protect the rights of the individual.

### Procedures

A well constructed interview or interrogation may determine the outcome of a criminal investigation.

#### A. Procedures and Techniques

1. At the earliest possible moment in the investigation of any incident, the officer should seek out and identify those individuals who may have knowledge of the event and whose information may contribute to the investigation.
2. Although circumstances will vary from case to case, the officer should attempt to acquire as much information on the background of the person to be interviewed as is possible.
3. Once witnesses have been identified, they should be separated from each other. If the witness should be isolated from any outside influence if possible and interview as soon as practical.
4. Questions should be stated simply and clearly and in systematic and chronological order.
5. In certain instances, it may be appropriate to require a written statement from the witness.

#### B. Custodial Interrogation [CFA 15.06].

1. Police officers are required to advise all suspects that are in custody, of their Miranda rights.
2. The suspect may waive their rights and agree to talk with police officials without the benefit of an attorney. Even though a suspect has waived the rights, they are free to withdraw that waiver at any time.

**C. Interrogation Plan**

Thorough preparation should precede the interrogation and include review of the offense report, witness statements, laboratory reports and any file information concerning the suspect.

1. To carry out a successful interrogation, the interrogator must know as much as possible about the offense, the victim and the suspect.
2. All aspects of the interrogation must be controlled by the interrogator, to include, the location, the date and time, and most importantly, the privacy.
3. All interrogations conducted by members of this department will be documented.
4. When a suspect chooses to waive their rights, this information must be documented in the incident or supplemental police report.

**Glossary.**

**Admission** - A statement by accused, direct or implied, of facts pertinent to issue, and tending, in connection with proof of other facts, to prove his guilt.

**Confession** - A voluntary statement made by a person charged with the commission of a crime or misdemeanor, communicated to another person, wherein he acknowledges himself to be guilty of the offense charged, and discloses the circumstances of the act or the share and participation which he had in it.

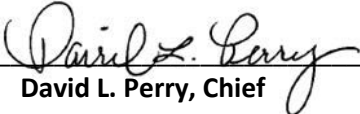
**Interview** - A meeting in which a person is asked about his views and activities.

**Interrogation** - To ask questions of someone formally as in examination.

**Indexing.** This general order shall be indexed as:

Interviews  
Interrogations

**Attachments:** None.

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