



ANDERSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO-214

GENERAL ORDERS

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS

PURPOSE:

The polygraph is a very useful investigative aid in providing:

1. A general parameter of suspects.
2. A verification of suspects.
3. Elimination of innocent persons.

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS:

Types of tests:

1. Tests are administered as needed for criminal investigations.
2. Tests for cases involving Sheriff's Office personnel and/or the complainant/victim in an internal investigation are not administered by the Sheriff's Office contracted examiner, but are referred to another certified examiner.

POLYGRAPH SERVICES:

Guidelines for requesting polygraph services:

1. The investigating deputy is to confer with his supervisor before requesting a polygraph examination. The supervisor is to review the case and ascertain if the deputy has complied with all applicable parts of this policy. The supervisor may then refer the deputy to the polygraph examiner.
2. It is recommended that patrol deputies confer with area investigators prior to requesting an examination to eliminate duplicated efforts.

Pre-examination requirements:

1. The investigating deputy is to make certain the subject is questioned concerning the specific offense and he/she agrees to a polygraph examination prior to scheduling an appointment.
2. When an investigating deputy is attempting to verify a statement made by a complainant or suspect, the statement is to be reduced to writing before scheduling an examination.
3. In cases where the investigating deputy is attempting to verify a crime and check a suspect, both the victim and the suspect should be administered polygraph examinations.
4. The investigating deputy is responsible for arranging for the polygraph examination.
5. The investigating deputy is to brief the polygraph examiner on all details of the case, and have the updated case file and any background information on the examinee available for the examiner.
6. The investigating deputy is to make certain the subject will be available at the appointed time and place.
7. The investigating deputy is to ascertain that each subject to be examined is not physically or mentally ill, suffering from injuries or

under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages. *Never advise or recommend an examinee to refrain from taking their medication, but note any medications and advise the examiner.*

8. If a subject is eighteen (18) years old or younger, the investigating deputy is to obtain the subject's consent to the polygraph examination, along with written permission from a parent(s) or guardian(s). If neither a parent(s) nor guardian(s) can be present for the examination, the juvenile waiver form is to be signed and witnessed prior to testing or written authorization from a Family Court judge is to be presented to the polygraph examiner.
9. In all cases, investigating deputies should withhold from suspects all information believed to be known only to the victim or persons with guilty knowledge; for example, the exact amount of stolen money, the point of entry by the criminal or the type and caliber weapon used.
10. The polygraph examiner will deal with only one crime or specific issue during any one examination.

**POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATION
CONSIDERATIONS:**

For reasons explained, the polygraph examiner will not administer tests to the following persons:

- Persons with history of heart attack, stroke, epilepsy or diabetics who are unable to produce a signed medical release from their physician(s).
- Persons involved in matters of a civil or domestic nature unless there is a resulting criminal matter.
- Persons under advisement from their lawyers to submit to examination unless investigating deputies and/or solicitors support testing.
- Persons under advisement from individuals not directly affiliated with a law enforcement agency or judicial circuit to submit to examination.
- Persons who are pregnant.
- Persons who are intoxicated.
- Persons with any physical or mental condition which, in the opinion of the examiner, may render a person unsuitable for testing

Persons who may not respond properly to examination:

- Persons who have used alcohol or drugs within 8 – 12 hours of an examination.
- Persons who have been interrogated for an extended length of time.
- Persons fatigued from being awake all-night or otherwise physically tired.
- Persons upset from tragic events within moderate periods of time after the events.

The polygraph examiner will determine suitability of persons and of matters for resolution by polygraph testing.

Approved by:
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff