


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL		
CHAPTER 221	POLYGRAPH	
	Effective: 1/14/2021	Commissioner Approval: <i>AP</i>
	Authorities: AS 23.10.037	
	Applicability: ALL DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES	
	Special Instructions:	

221.100 INTRODUCTION

The department establishes this policy to address the purpose, limitations, protocol for, and administration of polygraph examinations.

221.300 POLYGRAPH OVERVIEW

A. General Information. The polygraph is a technique for detecting deception, which combines specific interview techniques with instrumentation that measures physiological reactions to questions posed by the examiner. The utilization of a polygraph examination cannot be expected to immediately bring about a resolution to an ongoing investigation simply by determination of the truthfulness of the facts offered, though it may be relied upon as one of many investigative strategies that contribute to the process.

A trained polygraph examiner can usually make a valid determination as to a person's truthfulness or deception in regard to a particular issue, however the examination process is not a substitute for a thorough police investigation and will not be used as such.

B. Advantages of using the polygraph. A polygraph examination is a powerful tool for the investigator:

1. Polygraphs can provide evidence of innocence, removing suspicion from the falsely accused;
2. When used in conjunction with other advanced interview techniques, polygraphs are generally more accurate than other interview techniques alone in determining whether an individual is being deceptive;
3. The polygraph examination procedure may encourage offenders to make truthful admissions or expose their knowledge of facts relevant to the case;
4. The examination procedure often provides additional investigative leads;
5. Polygraphs can be used to verify the statement of a witness or victim; and
6. Information obtained during a polygraph examination may be admissible in court, as long as the rules of admissibility are followed.

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