

2017

Organization of Bar Investigators Annual Conference: *Interview & Interrogation*

8-Hour Course

Talking Across Boundaries: The Lost Art of Interviewing

Although most investigators would claim they are good interviewers, many are not. In this block of instruction, the instructors will discuss why investigators should strive to interview as many people as possible face-to-face (victims, witnesses and suspects) and what the goal of the interview is. Additionally, the specific limitations of written statements (and phone interviews) will be discussed.

Strategic Setup of the Interview Environment: How the Devil Is in the Details

Investigators are often not trained to think carefully through when and where interviews should take place – and what impact the interview environment can have on the interview. The instructors will discuss how to develop the ideal interview environment – and how to adapt and overcome in situations when the perfect environment isn't an option.

The Origin and How-To of the Cognitive Interview: Practical Application of the Research

Developed in 1984 by Ronald Fisher and Ed Geiselman, the Cognitive Interview has been used primarily with victims and witnesses to maximize the amount of information gained from a subject while maintaining a high rate of accuracy. In this block of instruction, the instructors will train investigators to conduct Cognitive Interviews from start-to-finish. Instructors will suggest how to also implement the Cognitive Interview in suspect interviews.

Welcomed Gathering of Provable Lies: Redefining the Goal of Non-Discloser Interviews

More often than not, investigators will immediately confront inconsistencies or lies (or what they perceive as lies.) The instructors will explain how inviting a free narrative and “gathering” inconsistent statements or lies will be much more productive and beneficial to the overall investigation than immediate confrontation.

The Hypothetical Question: Testing the Subject's Commitment to His Statements

Once investigators have been trained to conduct Cognitive Interviews and obtain a lengthy, detail-heavy account of events by a suspect, they will be trained to test the suspect's commitment to that account using a hypothetical question. In this block of instruction, investigators will learn to prepare in advance a case-specific hypothetical question, how to introduce or properly preface the question, and how to effectively deliver the question.

Realigning Our Understanding & Use of Non-Verbal Cues of Deception

The most recent and best research available has conclusively demonstrated that much of the past training on detecting deception through non-verbal cues of deception is not supported by the scientific community. The instructors will use the research to encourage investigators to move from determining and articulating truth and deception based on non-verbal cues of deception to doing so based on the high-volume of information gained during the Cognitive Interview – and the inconsistencies both “within” and “without” that statement.

The Challenge: A Scripted and Confident Accusatory Statement

In this block of instruction, investigators will learn why specifically they should move from an interview to an interrogation, when in the encounter to do so, and how to do it. Many investigators have not been trained to make this all important decision, how to later articulate why the decision was made, and how to maximize the psychological impact on the suspect when doing so.

HIG and Psychology of Influence: Using Cutting Edge Government Research and Marketing & Sales Tactics

In August, 2009, President Barack Obama created a U.S. intelligence-gathering group to facilitate research and analysis of field interviews to determine how best to obtain information about accomplices and terrorism threats. Although initially designed to assist in the military's interviewing of individuals overseas, the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) research has become available domestically and can provide tremendous help in conducting all sorts of interviews. In addition to sharing some of the most applicable research from the HIG, the instructors will demonstrate how

Theme Development: Selling a Moral Justification to Your Subject

In this block, instructors will explain why theme development – the use of narrative to provide a moral justification to someone who has acted wrongly – is an extremely powerful and effective tool for eliciting truthful admissions. Investigators will be trained in avoiding the pitfalls of improper theme development that can increase the likelihood of false confessions.



WANTED: INTERVIEWERS & INTERROGATORS

