

Special Circumstance Interviews
Ethnicity, Developmental Level,
Gender, Age, Disability

Overview

- Officers are expected to be capable of obtaining basic information from a wide variety of people
- Some populations do require special treatment or different interview tactics
- Some populations are not good candidates for cognitive interviews
- Departments have differing procedures for utilizing specialists for interviews

Is the statement you are taking today going to be useful tomorrow?

Ultimately this is decided later, in court, and the decision will probably be based on witness credibility.

Populations Requiring Care

- Shouldn't every interview be done carefully?
- Opposite gender
- Different generation
- Different ethnicity
- Persons in custody, under arrest and/or suspects in other crimes
- Drug addicts



Populations Requiring Caution

- Confidential Informants
- Developmentally disabled
- Mentally ill (in crisis)
- Alzheimer's patients
- Young children



Interviewing Children

- Assessing Age
- Assessing Developmental Level
- Understanding Your Mission
- Knowing Your Resources



Basic Techniques

- Do no harm
- Isolate
- Build rapport
- Evaluate
- Ask open questions
 - Jurisdiction
 - Crime
- Reunite with guardian

Specialized Techniques

- Forensic Interview
- [Stepwise Interview](#)
- Goals
 - Seek Truth
 - Prepare for Court
 - Minimize Trauma
 - Promote Healing

Additional Considerations

- Physical exams
- Corroborative statements
- Physical evidence
- Suspect statements (Admissions & Confessions)

Assignment

- Locate a suitable child for an interview.
- Begin the interview by discussing neutral topics in order to build rapport with the child
- Ask the child to describe two neutral events
- Ask questions of the child to determine if he/she is capable of understanding the concept of truth vs. lying
- Ask the child open questions about a pleasant event or experience
- Reunite the child with his/her parents
- Prepare a brief report on your experience
