

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL  
GENERAL ORDER 42-13



**SUBJECT: USE OF INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH ROOMS**  
**NUMBER: 42-13-1426**

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**RELATED DIRECTIVES/FORMS/STANDARDS:** General Order 71-02, Std 42.2.8

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Discard rescinded General Order 42-13-1275

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**PURPOSE:** To establish policy and procedures related to the use of Patrol facilities for conducting interviews and polygraph examinations in criminal investigations.

**POLICY:** To provide for the supervision, accountability, safety, and security of people who are brought into Patrol facilities for the purpose of being interviewed or polygraphed in criminal investigations.

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **A. Designation of Interview and Polygraph Rooms**

Troop commanders and the directors of the Gaming Division and Division of Drug and Crime Control will issue component directives designating interview and polygraph rooms within the facilities under their command where custodial and non-custodial interviews and polygraphs may be conducted. All polygraphs and interviews that could turn into interrogations and result in the immediate arrest of a person should occur in the designated rooms.

### **B. Exceptions**

Because they are specially equipped for the purpose, pre-designated interview rooms should be used whenever possible for all custodial and non-custodial interviews and polygraph examinations. Some investigations will require multiple people to be interviewed simultaneously. Sometimes interviews in designated interview rooms will not be feasible due to the extreme distance between the area of investigation and a designated interview room. In those instances, interviews may be conducted in non-designated interview rooms.

## **II. EQUIPPING INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH ROOMS**

The provisions of this section will apply to all custodial and non-custodial interviews and polygraph examinations conducted by agency personnel regardless of where they occur.

**A.** All rooms used for interviews and polygraph examinations will be equipped with a means of external communication for use in summoning assistance, if needed. Communication may be accomplished by visual signal, panic button, telephone, cellular telephone, intercom, two-way radio, or similar technology. **Std 42.2.8 (d)**

**B.** Interview and polygraph rooms will be equipped with the forms, instruments, and recording equipment necessary to perform interviews and polygraph examinations. Because they are potential weapons, other property and supplies stored in the aforementioned rooms should be kept to a minimum. **Std 42.2.8 (e)**

**C.** Interview and polygraph rooms should be located or constructed to minimize distractions from external activities and sounds.

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**III. PROCEDURES FOR USE OF FACILITIES**

Patrol facilities may be used for both custodial interviews of arrestees and non-custodial interviews of victims, witnesses, and suspects. The safety and security of persons brought into Patrol facilities for the purpose of being interviewed or polygraphed is the responsibility of the arresting or investigating officer unless relieved by another officer or supervisor. The following procedures will apply to all personnel who use agency facilities for interviews and polygraphs.

**A. Custodial Interviews/Custodial Polygraph Examinations Std 42.2.8 (b)**

1. All persons in custody will be searched for weapons, contraband, and evidence prior to being placed in an interview or polygraph room. A Patrol member will verify search of each arrestee and should search any arrestee transported by a non-Patrol officer. **Std 42.2.8 (b)**
2. Arrestees will be handcuffed while in agency facilities. Handcuffs may be removed while the arrestee or prisoner is in an interview or polygraph room at the discretion of the officer having custody. **Std 42.2.8 (b)**
3. Except in the case of unusual circumstances, only one arrestee should be placed in an interview or polygraph room at a time. **Std 42.2.8 (b)**
4. Under normal circumstances, firearms will not be allowed in an interview or polygraph room when detainees are present. Officers may take less lethal weapons into the room if properly secured on the officer's person. If no officer other than the interviewing member is present in the facility, the member may wear a properly secured firearm during the interview or examination. Otherwise, firearms will be securely stored in a locking desk drawer, filing cabinet, or lock box prior to entering the aforementioned rooms. **Std 42.2.8 (a)**
5. Under normal circumstances, no more than two officers should be in an interview room during a custodial interrogation, interview, or polygraph examination. **Std 42.2.8 (c)**
6. Suspects will be allowed water and comfort breaks at the discretion of the interviewing member. Restrooms will be searched for contraband and weapons immediately before and immediately after being used by suspects. **Std 42.2.8 (g)**

**B. Non-Custodial Interviews and Polygraph Examinations Std 42.2.8 (b)**

1. Under normal circumstances, no more than two officers should be in an interview room during a non-custodial interview or polygraph examination. **Std 42.2.8 (c)**
2. Under normal circumstances, firearms will not be allowed in an interview or polygraph room when detainees or suspects are present. Officers may take less lethal weapons into the room if properly secured on the officer's person. If no officer other than the interviewing member is present in the facility, the member may wear a properly secured firearm during the interview or examination. Otherwise, firearms will be securely stored in a locking desk drawer, filing cabinet, or lock box prior to entering the aforementioned rooms. **Std 42.2.8 (a)**
3. Suspects will always be searched before being taken into an interview or polygraph room.
4. Pat down searches of victims and witnesses may be conducted at the discretion of the interviewing member.
5. Suspects will not be left alone in an interview or polygraph room, except for instances when continuous observation is maintained through an open door, unobstructed window, or through electronic means.
6. Victims and witnesses should not be left alone in an interview or polygraph room for extended periods of time. If left alone, the interviewing member will ensure that visual contact is made at least once every fifteen minutes.

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7. Victims and witnesses will be allowed access to water, restrooms, and comfort breaks upon reasonable request. **Std 42.2.8 (g)**
8. Suspects will be allowed water and comfort breaks at the discretion of the interviewing member. **Std 42.2.8 (g)**
9. Restrooms will be searched for weapons and contraband before and immediately after being used by suspects, victims, and witnesses.

  
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