


STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 03-22-2021
	Title: Polygraph Examinations	No. 8.11
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 03-22-2021
	Reference:	

PURPOSE:

The use of the polygraph is a quick and efficient way to detect deception in an individual. Police, however, must follow set procedures so that the examination is not tainted, the process is not abused, and the constitutional rights of the individual are protected.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to allow the use of polygraph information, obtained from a licenses and certified polygraphist for pre employment screening as well as an aid to investigation of crimes.

PROCEDURE:

Basic Uses of the Polygraph

The polygraph is an excellent aid to law enforcement investigations. Investigators must remember that the polygraph is a supplement to and not a substitute for a thorough investigation. The final results of a polygraph examination will be based, in great measure upon the thoroughness of the investigation prior to having the person take the examination. The examination should never be the first step in the investigation process.

The examination should not be used when everything else has failed and a time delay has not produced the facts which would bring the case to a successful conclusion. The best time to use the polygraph is when the investigation has narrowed down the suspect to a few individuals who still maintain their truthfulness after preliminary interrogation.

Polygraph examinations may be conducted on suspects in a crime, victims of a crime, witnesses of a crime, or for pre-employment screening examinations for this department. Once a person has been formerly charged with a crime, examinations will not be conducted unless stipulated and agreed upon by the Prosecutor's Office and the accused

Preparation for a Polygraph Examination

The Connecticut State Police Polygraph Unit or the F.B.I. Polygraph Unit will conduct examinations only. Examiners will be certified and approved by the State of Connecticut or other federal authorizing agency. Examinations will be scheduled with the polygraph unit well enough in advance to properly allow for case preparation. Once an appointment is made, it should only be cancelled if someone confesses or refuses to participate. The polygraph unit will immediately be informed of any cancellations.

Unless requested and approved by the Prosecutor's Office, a polygraph examination will not be conducted if the subject has been given a previous examination.

Unless expressly authorized by the polygraph unit, examinations will not be conducted in any criminal case when prosecution is not intended.

Participation of the subject must be voluntary. The person being tested must sign a consent form in the presence of the polygraph examiner.

Victims of sexual assault will neither be requested nor required to submit to a polygraph examination.

Investigators will provide the testing agency with all the necessary background information on the crime and the individual. Information provided should include officers' reports, follow up investigation reports, statements, denials, background information, and a list of evidence. The examiner may request that a certain piece of evidence be brought with the examinee.

Testing information will be given, if requested, to the polygraph unit well in advance of the examination

Examination Day Procedures

On the day of the scheduled examination, arrangements will be made to either pick the examinee up or have them come to headquarters. A detective, preferably the detective working on the case, will then transport them to and from the place of examination. Exceptions to this may occur when the court directs otherwise.