

Interview & Interrogation Techniques Training

Presented by: Gordon D. Taylor

Course Description:

This 2-day training course will focus on cutting-edge, rapport based interview and interrogation techniques, with an emphasis on best practices for drug and violent crime investigations. It will provide investigators with a variety of strategies, tools and skills to obtain the truth from the most difficult, resistant suspects, and to do it in a manner consistent with ethical and legal standards.

Live demonstration of the techniques will be offered with short practical exercises interspersed throughout the course. Participants will leave with hands-on, practical techniques they can immediately begin to use within their respective agencies. These proven methods will lead to better communication skills and to increased collection of information, evidence, arrests and successful prosecutions. This is a course you won't want to miss!

Course Objectives:

- Understand the legal issues involved in interviews and interrogations and how to develop an initial admission of guilt into a legally acceptable confession.
- Establish the ideal interview room setting and eliminate distractions to increase interviewer effectiveness.
- Incorporate audio/visual recordings of interviews and interrogations in accordance with legal mandates and organizational policy.
- Effectively evaluate the suspect's verbal and non-verbal behavior during the interview and interrogation.
- Understand and detect the different types of deception typically encountered during an interview and interrogation.
- Effectively establish rapport with victims, witnesses and suspects which will increase the interviewer's effectiveness in obtaining truthful information.
- Effectively use different types of questions during a non-accusatory interview, to include open-ended, closed-ended, clarification, behavior provoking and bait questions.
- Understand two different interrogation strategies (Direct Accusation Method and Indirect Accusation Method), and effectively use the appropriate method depending on the type of suspect and investigation.
- Understand the Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE technique) and best practices of when and how to introduce evidence during an interrogation.
- Effectively use appropriate theme development for drug and violent crime interrogations.

Course Topics:

1. **Interrogation Legal Considerations:** The participants will learn best practices in how to obtain a valid Miranda waiver from a custodial suspect. This section also covers legal parameters on the use of trickery and deceit during an interview or interrogation.
2. **Room Setting and Preparation:** The ideal room setting for both the interviewer and the person being questioned will be discussed. The participants will learn how the proper setting and preparation can increase an interviewer's effectiveness.
3. **Interpretation of Verbal and Non-Verbal Behavior:** The evaluation of verbal and non-verbal behavior will be discussed in depth. An emphasis will be placed on how the interviewer's behavior, room setting and the suspect's past experiences can play a factor in the proper interpretation of behavioral cues.
4. **Basic Interview Method:** The basic interview method is a rapport based, non-accusatory interviewing technique that assists in eliminating the innocent from the investigation and focuses on the guilty. Participants will learn how to develop rapport with the interviewee, use active listening skills and how an interview differs from an interrogation. Different types of non-accusatory questions and when to use them will be discussed in depth, including open-ended, closed-ended, clarification, behavior provoking and bait questions.

5. **Direct Accusation Interrogation Method:** This is a multi-step interrogation technique that uses a direct accusation of the suspect's involvement in a crime as the first step in the process. The technique then transitions into theme development to reduce the suspect's resistance and allows the suspect to tell the truth while saving face and protecting his/her ego. This method involves eight steps in all and is most effective in single incident crimes, such as a homicide or single incident robbery investigations. Topics in this method include:

- Direct Accusation
- Theme Development (Rationalization, Minimization and Projection)
- Handling Denials and Objections
- Focusing the Suspects Attention
- Handling Submission
- Assumptive Question
- Develop the Admission
- Documenting the Confession (Written Statement or Electronic Recording)

6. **Indirect Accusation Interrogation Method:** This highly effective interrogation method is a softer more conversational approach to the interrogation resulting in fewer denials and objections and thereby eliminating conflict between the suspect and interrogator. This method of interrogation is most effective in drug investigations and multi-incident crimes.

7. **Handling Difficult Questions:** Some suspects ask difficult questions or make comments during an interrogation in an attempt to get the upper hand and put the interrogator in a defensive position. Examples will be provided along with the appropriate interrogator responses.

8. **Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE Technique):** Recent research has determined the best strategies for discussing evidence during the interrogation. These strategies will be thoroughly discussed during the course.

Course Agenda Timeline:

Day 1	
0830 hrs –	Introduction and course overview
1630 hrs	Difference between interview and interrogation, Miranda legal considerations, Electronic Recordings, Using Interpreters, Room Setting and Distractions
	Evaluating Behavior – interpretation of verbal and non-verbal behavior
	Types of Deception, Truth Formula
	Basic Interview, Types of Questions
	Behavior Provoking Questions and Bait Questions

Day 2	
0830 hrs –	Overview of Interrogation Strategies
1630 hrs	Direct Accusation Interrogation Method
	Indirect Accusation Method (best for most drug investigations)
	Drug Related Themes and Assumptive Questions
	Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE Technique)
	Handling Difficult Questions or Comments from the Suspect
	Preventing False Confessions
	Course Summary and Evaluation

About the Instructor:

Gordon D. Taylor retired from the DEA in 2012 after serving 25 years as a special agent. He was the head of DEA's Sacramento District for nine years, where he directed DEA operations in 34 of California's 58 counties. During his career, Gordon worked at DEA offices in San Diego, Sacramento, Washington, D.C., and the DEA Academy in Quantico, VA. While assigned to the Academy, he was the lead instructor for interview and interrogation techniques.

During his time as a field agent, Gordon worked in a clandestine laboratory enforcement team, an international money laundering squad, and a violent gangs task force. Prior to joining the DEA, Gordon served as a police officer for the Sacramento Police Department.

For the past 29 years, Gordon has taught interview & interrogation techniques throughout the U.S. and overseas to thousands of law enforcement officers and members of the intelligence community, including state and local detectives, ATF, FBI, DHS, DEA and CIA.

After retiring from the DEA in 2012, Gordon has served as a subject matter expert, contract instructor and consultant to the U.S. Department of State, Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATA). In this role, he has updated and rewritten the curriculum for three anti-terrorism related courses: 1) Interviewing Terrorist Suspects; 2) Investigating Terrorist Incidents; and, 3) Police Media Relations. He currently provides this training to law enforcement investigators in developing countries throughout the world. Gordon also worked as a part-time senior instructor for the DEA International Training Program, where he provided counter-narcotics training to law enforcement officers in Central Asia and Africa.

Gordon served as an interview & interrogation consultant and speaker for Wicklander-Zulawski and Associates (w-z.com) from 2013-2015. As a W-Z employee, Gordon became a certified forensic interviewer (CFI).

Gordon holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California State University at Sacramento. He currently lives in Sacramento.