

Peoria Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Policy 4.33 Computer Voice Stress Analyzer



**“Our Community...
Our Commitment”**

I. POLICY (42.2.8)

The Peoria Police Department has established a guideline for administering Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA) examinations in conjunction with investigations conducted by the Peoria Police Department. CVSA examinations, by qualified examiners, are gaining national acceptance as an information aid and as a tool to be used in conjunction with an investigation. They should not be used as a final determinant factor in investigations, nor should they be used to circumvent good investigative procedures. The CVSA is used for truth verification, and should be viewed as a means to protect the integrity of an investigation and the interviewee. Only Peoria Police Department personnel who are approved CVSA examiner's and have received training from the National Institute for Truth Verification are authorized to utilize the CVSA.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA) – CVSA detects, measures, and charts the stress in a person's voice following a pre-formatted questionnaire.

B. Qualified Examiner – A person who has successfully completed training by a recognized instructor in truth verification and the use of the CVSA.

C. Overt Interview – A live interview by a CVSA examiner with a suspect, victim, or complainant.

1. These interviews are conducted with prior knowledge and permission that certain questions will be recorded live and captured by the CVSA for analysis.

2. At the examiner's discretion, all or portions of the interview may be recorded on audio and/or videotape.

D. Structured Interviews – A legally obtained audiotape interview of a suspect, victim, witness, or complainant.

1. The interviews are designed to capture a response to preformatted questions.

2. This taped interview is then analyzed by the CVSA examiner.

III. PROCEDURE

A. CVSA examinations should be utilized in conjunction with investigative leads and interviews of available suspect(s), victim(s), and/or witness(s).

1. When practical, both the victim and the accused should be tested for comparison.

2. These results are not to be used for arrest or legal action, but are designed for developing leads and/or obtaining case direction.

B. Persons who may be tested:

- 1. Any individual who knows right from wrong. Generally, children who recognize right from wrong may be tested.
- 2. Tests are conducted at the discretion of the examiner.

C. Persons who may not be tested:

- 1. Children under the age of eighteen must have parental or legal guardian consent prior to testing. The consent must be in writing and in the possession of the CVSA examiner prior to the beginning of the examination.
- 2. Any person who has been forced or coerced into taking the examination.
- 3. Any person who has been indicted by a Grand Jury or formally charged for the crime the CVSA is being requested for, unless there is an agreement and stipulation signed by the person to be examined, their defense attorney, and the prosecutor.

D. Responsibilities of CVSA Examiner

- 1. The CVSA examiner will review the available information pertaining to the case in question prior to administering an examination.
- 2. Any structural interview using the CVSA shall conform to the approved CVSA protocol, as published by the National Institute for Truth Verification and shall be approved by the Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) Sergeant.
- 3. The CIB Lieutenant must approve an examination request for an administrative investigation or a request by another organization prior to conducting the CVSA examination.
- 4. The CVSA examiner will receive a second opinion or examination from another certified examiner.
- 5. All CVSA examiners will maintain a record of all examinations they have conducted.
- 6. The CVSA examiner will refrain from examinations that may compromise their integrity. Any tests of friends, relatives, or persons the examiner has a relationship with which represents a conflict of interest must be conducted by a neutral examiner.
- 7. In the event the examiner declines to administer an examination and the decision is questioned, a second opinion from a second CVSA examiner is recommend.

E. Responsibilities of Investigator requesting a CVSA examination

- 1. The Investigator will complete a preliminary investigation and consult with the examiner prior to a CVSA examination being scheduled. The CVSA is a supplement to, not a substitute for, a thorough investigation.
- 2. The Investigator is responsible for notifying the subject of the date and time for the scheduled appointment for the CVSA examination.
- 3. The Investigator will remain available in CIB until the completion of an examination.
- 4. The Investigator will notify the CVSA examiner immediately if the subject cancels an examination appointment.

F. CVSA Records

- 1. CVSA records may include: a waiver of rights, voluntary submission forms, subject information sheet, CVSA graph, and/or statement of results.
- 2. CVSA records will be maintained for at least a two-year period and/or until any litigation is concluded in the case or issue.
- 3. The CVSA examiner is responsible for the storage of the CVSA records. These records shall be maintained in a secure area within CIB.

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