
Computer Voice Stress Examinations

808.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the use of the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA) as an investigative tool.

808.2 POLICY

All Berkeley Police Department CVSA examinations shall be conducted in accordance with regulations contained in the California Administrative Code, Business and Professions Code and Government Code.

808.3 THE COMPUTER VOICE STRESS ANALYZER (CVSA)

The CVSA is an excellent aid to law enforcement investigations; however, it should never be considered as a substitute or shortcut to an investigation.

- (a) The final result of a CVSA examination will be based, in great measure, upon the thoroughness of the investigation prior to having a subject take the examination.
- (b) In criminal investigations, examinations may be conducted upon suspects, victims and witnesses.

808.4 PROCEDURES

Requests may be made to a CVSA examiner verbally or in writing. Requests must be accompanied by sufficient data for evaluation of the subject. The decision to do an examination is based on the nature of the investigation and the characteristics of the person to be examined.

Examinations will only be conducted in criminal cases where criminal prosecution, not civil litigation, is the intended result of the investigation.

808.5 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

In keeping with the California Peace Officers' Bill of Rights, CVSA examinations will not be offered, nor given to sworn members of the Department.

808.6 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS

During the background investigation process, a CVSA examination shall be administered to each police officer candidate. CVSA examinations shall only be administered by specially trained CVSA examiners employed by the Berkeley Police Department. CVSA examinations shall be based on information provided by the applicant and discovered during the background investigation, including the Personal History Statement, Drug Use Questionnaire and Pre-Investigative Questionnaire.

At the conclusion of the examination, the examiner shall prepare a memorandum addressed to the Personnel and Training Sergeant outlining the results. This memorandum shall include whether

Berkeley Police Department

Law Enforcement Services Manual

Computer Voice Stress Examinations

or not deception was indicated, and if so, in what area. Any additional admissions or information developed during the interview shall be documented in the memorandum.

The results of the CVSA examination shall not be the sole determinant of any candidate's suitability for employment with the Berkeley Police Department.