INTERVIEW & INTERROGATION OF SUSPECT:

STATEMENT EVIDENCE

L.E. Function

• Interrogation is like selling a product
• Locking someone into a story
• Timelines (suspect’s presentation of the sequence of events)
• Suspect’s version vs. what is known based on evidence
TWO PRONGS OF MIRANDA
(important so that suspect statement evidence can be used in trial)

• Custody
  • Freedom of movement is restrained
  • Officer safety concerns
• Interrogation
  • Questions designed to elicit an incriminating response

Who is our suspect?

- Child Homicide
- CSAM
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
  1. Intrafamilial
  2. Authority Figure
  3. “NICE GUY”
  4. Community Standing

Commonalities vs. Differences
- Internal struggle
- Want to tell their story
- They are smarter than us
- Maintaining their public persona

Where Did Our Suspect Come From?

EMOTIONAL
- Background and upbringing
- History of abuse or trauma
- Socio-economic Background
- Educational Level
- Psychological Issues which may alter communication and or reasoning
- Relationship history, duration, and why they ended

PHYSICAL
- History of multiple frequent address changes
- Possibly a serial offender
- Past CPS History
- Did the offender leave certain areas upon CPS Involvement

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Special Agent James Clemente, FBI BSU (Ret.)

“For every hour we spend with a suspect, our chance of obtaining a confession increases 25%”

“What we found is overwhelmingly, and it is proven by empirical studies, that rapport-based interrogation techniques actually work, because what they do is they humanize you to the person that you’re actually interrogating.”

Interrogation Approaches
- Body language and proxemics
- Tone and pacing
- Using narratives and silence
- Dignity of the suspect

Interrogation Techniques
- Icebreakers and rationalization
- Themes
- Demonstrations
**Empathetic “Icebreakers”**

- Tell me about ________ (Name of suspect) Thank you to the F.I. Community!!
- “I know there are other places we would both rather be”
- Address suspect’s concerns- what is bothering them
- “I’m not here to label or judge you”
- Crime specific- playing one vs. the other and understanding their past

**MEDICAL EVIDENCE “EDUCATION”**

- Following the demonstration of how the injury occurred from suspect’s version
- Explaining the medical evidence in layman’s terms
- Maybe the first time for “Gentle confrontation”
- “Medically, it’s not possible for the injury to occurred how you are telling me”
- Follow-up with a second demonstration

**POLYGRAPH & CVSA**

- Tools for statement evidence
- Not definitive evidence of a crime
- Is only one part of the interview/interrogation process
- Never closing a case based on results
Next Steps of the Investigation

• Attempt to verify or refute the details provided by the suspect
• Will our investigation, “Tip the Scale”
• The investigation does not stop at the confession

Taking it Beyond the Elements of the Crime in the Suspect Interrogation

• To assess risk to others
• To inform bail conditions
• To guide sentencing considerations

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Statement Evidence
• Apology letter
• What do I say to ____ if the baby is dead when I get to the hospital?
• Jail calls

Nontraditional Evidence
• Trash pulls
• Letter carriers
• Previous PSI reports
THANK YOU!

Detective Chris Kolcharno
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