

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL POLICY MANUAL

	SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER
	INTERVIEW / INTERROGATION / POLYGRAPH ROOMS	22.12
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22.12.01 PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the use of Florida Highway Patrol facilities specifically designated for the purpose of conducting interviews and interrogations of individuals that have not been arrested. This shall include any designated room used for conducting polygraph examinations.

22.12.02 POLICY

Occasionally, serious conditions unexpectedly develop in situations where an apparently cooperative interviewee or subject may become combative or violent. It is the policy of the Florida Highway Patrol to establish safe conditions for the various situations that a member may encounter when conducting interviews, interrogations and/or polygraphs in any of its facilities. This policy shall apply to both uniformed and non-uniformed members utilizing these rooms.

22.12.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. **CHIEF INVESTIGATOR** – Bureau Commander of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Intelligence (BCII).
- B. **INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION ROOMS** – For the purpose of this policy, interview and interrogation rooms shall include polygraph rooms and other rooms where it is likely that an interview could turn into an interrogation and arrest of a person.
 - 1. Specific rooms shall be designated and outfitted to conform to the requirements of this policy. No other room shall be used for such purposes without obtaining prior authority of the Troop Commander for field locations and the Chief Investigator for General Headquarters (GHQ).
 - 2. In compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, as this section relates to juveniles, under no circumstance shall a juvenile be securely detained in an interview or interrogation room for investigation purposes longer than four (4) hours. During such detention, doors leading directly into or out of the interview or interrogation room shall be unlocked.

22.12.04 PROCEDURES

- A. The Troop Commander will determine which facilities within his/her troop individuals may be taken to be interviewed, interrogated, and/or polygraphed. For GHQ and any facility that houses BCII personnel only, the Chief Investigator shall determine whether individuals can be taken to the facility to be interviewed or interrogated.
- B. The lead investigator is responsible for overseeing interviews or interrogations.
- C. Members should consider the seriousness of the crime being investigated and attendant security concerns in determining whether interviews or interrogations should be conducted at a Florida Highway Patrol facility or another law enforcement facility.
- D. Except those that are issued by the Department and normally worn on the member's gun-belt or in an appropriate undercover holster, no firearms or weapons are permitted in the interview rooms or areas. All such firearms or weapons shall be kept in the holster, on the member's person, with all snaps securely fastened.

The member(s) conducting the interview, interrogation and/or polygraph examination is responsible for searching the room for contraband and weapons before the interviewee enters the room and after the interviewee leaves.

- E. Rooms and areas that are designated and authorized for use for interviews, interrogations, or polygraphs must have, at a minimum:
 - 1. Desk for the member to complete necessary reports.
 - 2. Seating, sufficient in number for the interviewing member(s) and each interviewee.
 - 3. Telephone.
 - 4. Must be situated away from areas of the facility open to the public.
 - 5. Must include access to water and restrooms.
 - 6. As a security measure, during an interview/interrogation and/or during a polygraph, rooms will not have access doors locked.
- F. The effectiveness of the telephone or use of a HSMV Safe Plan code word is dependent upon the ability of a member to use either to summon assistance should the need arise. Therefore, members shall have their issued handheld radio on or near their person and turned on in the event an emergency situation quickly escalates.

1. The emergency button shall be used as a panic or duress alarm in the event the dialing of a telephone or utilization of the Safe Plan code word is not an option.

NOTE: In the event of an emergency situation whereby the need arises to utilize the handheld radio panic or duress alarm, it is important to remember to announce your location immediately.

2. Members conducting an interview/interrogation and/or polygraph examination alone shall notify the appropriate Regional Communications Center (RCC) of their arrival at and departure from the facility and the reason for taking an individual to that location.
 - a. Notification to the appropriate RCC may be made via the use of the issued hand held radio, creation of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) incident via the member's Mobile Data Computer (MDC) or via telephone.
 - b. At the conclusion of the interview/interrogation and/or polygraph examination, members shall notify the appropriate RCC in the manner noted above.

REMEMBER! SAFETY FIRST!

When practicable, the best officer safety practice is to ensure at least two members, at a minimum, are present during any interview/interrogation.

- G. Interviews, interrogations, and/or polygraph sessions shall include periodic breaks to allow for personal necessities and rest breaks as are reasonably necessary.
- H. Generally, no more than two members should be present during the interview or interrogation unless there are extenuating circumstances that require more members; and, there is sufficient space to accommodate the additional personnel.
 1. Additional personnel may be present in extraordinary circumstances and cases involving juveniles.
 2. Members should take additional precautions when interviewing/interrogating individuals of the opposite sex and whenever possible, should attempt to solicit the assistance of a same sex member.