

CONSIDERATIONS FOR TAKING A PURE VERSION WITNESS STATEMENT

A "pure version" witness statement is crucial in investigating criminal offenses or significant incidents. It ensures an unaltered account directly from the witness, making the information more reliable. This process acknowledges that people perceive and remember events differently. By following these steps, investigators improve the trustworthiness of witness statements, making the investigative process more effective.

Step 1 Identification and Isolation of Witnesses



Investigators at the scene, or event must identify potential witnesses promptly and secure them from external influences. This proactive approach ensures the witness statement is a pure version of their own recollection, untainted by the perspectives of others.

Step 2 Determination of Competency



Investigators need to assess whether a witness is competent and compellable to testify in court.

Step 3 Awareness of Potential Bias



Investigators must remain vigilant about potential biases and motivations that could lead witnesses to provide inaccurate information. Factors such as personal involvement in the incident or emotional impact may influence a witness's account.

Step 4 Field Interview



Before taking a formal pure version statement, investigators conduct a field interview at the scene. This step helps them objectively assess the events without making assumptions based on personal observations.

Step 5 Conducting the Pure Version Witness Statement



Investigators may choose to conduct a pure version witness statement, allowing the witness to provide an uninterrupted recollection of the event based on their memory. This free-flow interview is followed by clarifying questions to ascertain the who, what, where, when, how, and why factors of the event, ensuring a comprehensive and accurate account.

In essence, the process emphasizes the importance of capturing an unadulterated version of the witness perspective, acknowledging the inherent differences in how individuals perceive and recall events. By following these systematic steps, investigators can enhance the reliability of witness statements, contributing to a more effective investigative process.