

SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: 10/06/2015	Supersedes Policy Dated: 03/31/2013	Rescinds:	SOG Number:
Accreditation Index: 1.2.3, 1.2.9			401.1
Part Title: Operations		Chapter Title: Patrol Operations	
Chief of Police:			

Field Interviews

I Policy

It will be the policy of the Springfield Police Department to conduct field interviews as part of a comprehensive strategy of crime control. The objectives are to identify and develop information about suspicious persons, develop suspects in conjunction with directed patrol in response to targeted patterns of crime, and crime prevention.

Field interviews will be conducted by the officers of this department in a manner consistent with our goal of keeping the community as free from crime and disorder as possible. That goal will be accomplished in a manner consistent with respecting the civil rights of all citizens with whom we come into contact.

II Definitions

Field Contacts – a conversation with a purpose between a citizen and a law enforcement officer where the citizen is free to leave. (CALEA 1.2.3(a) and 1.2.9(a))

Field Interrogation – questioning of a citizen by a law enforcement officer with respect to a crime. The status of field interrogation is further defined by the focus of suspicion being on the subject of the interview as the perpetrator of criminal activity. The citizen is generally not free to leave. (CALEA 1.2.3(a) and 1.2.9(a))

III Procedure

- 1 Officers of the Springfield Police Department are authorized and encouraged to conduct field interviews with persons under two conditions: (CALEA 1.2.9(a))

SOG 401.1

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- 1.1 Persons whom the officer believes may have information pertaining to a crime, pattern of crimes, and/or criminal suspects. This interview will generally take the form of a field contact. (CALEA 1.2.3(a))
 - 1.2 When the officer has a reasonable suspicion that criminal activity is afoot, and the person to be interviewed may be the perpetrator of that activity, this interview may take the form of either a field contact or field interrogation. (CALEA 1.2.3(b))
- 2 CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS (CALEA 1.2.3(a) and 1.2.3(b))
- 2.1 When appropriate, officers will provide Miranda warnings for the person(s) being interviewed. They will be given under the following conditions:
 - 2.1.1 A reasonable person would believe that they are no longer free to leave (custody), and;
 - 2.1.2 The person being interviewed will be asked questions designed to elicit a self-incriminating response.
 - 2.2 Miranda warnings should be given in a manner to ensure that the subject understands the content and affirmatively waives their rights prior to any further questioning.
 - 2.3 Persons being detained under the status listed in 2.1.1 or 2.1.2 should be released as soon as the reason for the detention no longer exists. This section does not preclude an arrest in the event that the officer develops probable cause to do so.
- 3 Demeanor
- 3.1 Officers conducting field interviews shall maintain a courteous manner and professional image. Officers will explain the reason for the contact, if appropriate, or if the person asks for a justification. Officers may refrain from an explanation if divulging it would be inconsistent with the security of an ongoing operation.

4 DOCUMENTATION

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV Attachments

1 Section 4.1 marked for redaction, per Policy Change Order 15-062.