

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

INTERVIEW ROOMS

Purpose: This directive establishes departmental policy concerning the use of rooms used for interviews or interrogations.

Policy Statement: The North Little Rock Police Department's policy is to provide a safe environment for interviewing suspects and witnesses.

Summary of Changes:

Procedures:

1. Operations

- 1.1 There are four rooms located at the Investigations Division that officers/investigators may use for interviews or interrogations. These rooms are furnished with digital video and audio recording equipment. The Investigations Division is responsible for authorizing and overseeing the use of these interview rooms. [CALEA 42.2.8e]
- 1.2 Other equipment used in the interview rooms includes a table and chairs. When requested, polygraph equipment is used during the interview of a subject. Other equipment to be used at the investigator's discretion could include but not be limited to: a laptop, cell phone, or any item need by the investigator. [CALEA 42.2.8f]
- 1.3 Officers/investigators will search all suspects before being placed in an interview room. Personal items will be removed from the suspect's possession, including cell phones unless authorized by a supervisor. Officers/investigators will place all items removed from the suspect's possession into an envelope marked with the suspect's name and locked in the evidence storage locker outside the interview rooms. [CALEA 42.2.8b]
- 1.4 Persons placed in interview rooms will be checked with a handheld metal detector for prohibited items by an officer/investigator before being placed in an interview room. Prohibited items will include but not limited to any of the following: firearms, cutting instruments, pepper spray, or any item that could be used as a weapon. Unless needed for a specific reason, witnesses should not normally take cell phones into an interview room. [CALEA 42.2.8b]
- 1.5 No more than two officers at any one time will interview/interrogate persons in an interview room unless authorized by a supervisor. Normally, no more than one suspect or witness should be in an interview room at any one time. [CALEA 42.2.8c]
- 1.6 Weapons are not allowed in interview rooms. All persons entering an interview room will properly secure their weapons before entering the interview room unless responding to an immediate need for assistance. [CALEA 42.2.8a]
- 1.7 Suspects will be continuously monitored by audio or video while in an interview room. Members will promptly respond to calls for assistance. [CALEA 42.2.8d]
- 1.8 Officers will not interview/interrogate persons in interview rooms unless another officer is present in the building monitoring the room. [CALEA 42.2.8b, d]
- 1.9 Persons in interview rooms will be offered reasonable comfort breaks, including access to restrooms, water, and meals as required. Officers/Investigators will make sure any request for restrooms, water, or meals is recorded in the interview room to be noted in dictation. [CALEA 42.2.8f]

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