

St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



DIRECTIVE TYPE: GENERAL ORDER		INDEX NUMBER: GO0702
SUBJECT: Interview/Interrogation Rooms		
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I. Policy

The St. Joseph Police Department utilizes a number of interview/interrogation facilities. These areas are not used as holding areas, only for the conducting of interviews or interrogations.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this general order is to provide clear direction to all St. Joseph Police Department personnel concerning the usage of these interview/interrogation areas.

III. Procedure

- A. St. Joseph/Buchanan County Law Enforcement Center (LEC): The Buchanan County jail area of the LEC has three (3) interview/interrogation rooms that the St. Joseph Police Department is allowed to use. These are located in the secure area of the LEC housing the jail facilities. No weapons are allowed in this area and any suspect interviewed/interrogated in these rooms would be in custody. All three have audio/visual capabilities however; the Police Department only controls the equipment for two of the rooms.
- B. St. Joseph Police Department Detective Division: Two (2) interview/interrogation rooms are located in the Detective Division. One of these is set up for adults. The other can be used for adults, but has the capability for interviewing children also. These two rooms also have full audio/visual capabilities. In the event when detectives are interviewing non-custodial suspects in these rooms, the department approved weapon may be allowed at the discretion of the investigating officer. If the weapon is removed it will be safely secured. When a non-custodial suspect is brought into this area for interrogation, a thorough pat down search will be conducted, as this is not a part of the public area of the LEC complex.
- C. Any interview/interrogation conducted in these areas is normally carried out by one, but no more than two, commissioned officers, except under exigent

circumstance. Officers conducting interviews of witnesses/victims are allowed at their discretion to retain their weapons. At least one other officer shall be aware of and available for assistance to the interviewing officer should the need arise. Each interview room has a duress alarm installed which is monitored by communications personnel.

- D.** Suspects will be provided access to the restroom, drinking water and other needs, as necessary. Comfort breaks are permissible when practical. Detectives will maintain observation of the suspect during this time to ensure the safety of the suspect.
- E.** The Department's polygraph room is also situated in the Detective Division. It has a polygraph table, examiner's chair and a chair for the examinee. This room also has full audio/visual capability. During the course of an interview there will always be a law enforcement officer observing the polygraph exam.
- F.** Another interview room is situated in the public access area of the St. Joseph Police Department. Non-custodial suspects are not normally interviewed/interrogated in this room. This room also has audio/visual capability.
- G.** Only personnel trained in the use of the audio/visual equipment are allowed to operate same.

Chris Connally, Chief of Police

Date