



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	
<b>OPR: 52</b>	
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<b>REVISION NO:</b> 4	

**SUBJECT: LINEUPS, SHOW-UPS, AND PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of eyewitness identification involving lineups, show-ups.

**2.0 POLICY**

Eyewitness identification is a frequently used investigatory tool. It is important that officers/agents strictly adhere to the procedures set forth in this policy in order to maximize the reliability of identifications, minimize unjust accusations of innocent individuals, and establish reliable evidence that conforms to established legal procedures.

**3.0 APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all commissioned officers of the Department of Public Safety.

**4.0 REFERENCES**

- A. CALEA Chapter 42 – Criminal Investigation**
- B. IACP National Law Enforcement Policy Center: “Show-ups, Photographic Identifications, and Lineups” Model Policy, Published April 1, 2003.**

**5.0 DEFINITIONS**

- A. Lineup** – The presentation of a number of individuals, usually including the suspect, before an eyewitness.
- B. Show-up** – The presentation of one suspect to an eyewitness in a short time following the commission of a crime.
- C. Blind Administrator**- means a person conducting a photo lineup or live lineup. “Blind” means the administrator does not know the identity of the suspect.
- D. “Blinded”** means the administrator, I,e, the officer conducting the lineup, knows the suspect but does not know which lineup member is being viewed by the eyewitness.
- E. Eyewitness or Witness**- a person who observes another person at or near the scene of an offense
- F. Filler**-a person or a photograph of a person who is not suspected of an offense and is included in the identification procedure.
- G. Live Lineup**-An identification procedure in which an eyewitness will view a group of people, in person, to determine whether the eyewitness can identify the suspect. In addition to the suspect there shall be at least four non-suspects in the lineup.

- H. **Photo Lineup**-An identification procedure in which **photographs**, including a photograph of the suspect and additional photographs of non-suspects, is displayed to an eyewitness to determine whether he eyewitness identifies the suspect as the perpetrator. There should be at least five fillers in a photo lineup
- I. **Show-up** - An eyewitness is presented with a **single suspect** to determine whether the eyewitness identifies the suspect as the perpetrator.
- J. **Suspect**-a person believed by law enforcement to be the possible perpetrator of a crime

### 6.0 PROCEDURE

#### A. LINE-UPS, SHOW-UPS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

1. In all cases, the Lineup, Show-up, and Photographic proceedings will be recorded by body camera and any other recording device necessary. Complete the attached Lineup, Show-up, and Photographic Identification Form. Retain the form and attach a copy to the Offense/Incident report. Any deviation from this must be documented. All recordings should be handled in accordance with *OPR:17 Evidence/Property Handling*.

#### B. LINEUPS/LIVE LINEUPS

1. Prior to any lineup, the administrator conducting the lineup should document a description of the suspect provided by the eyewitness, including a description of the circumstances under which the suspect was seen by the eyewitness, the time of day, the length of time the suspect was seen, the perceived or actual distance from the eyewitness to the suspect, and the lighting conditions.
2. Documentation of lineups is critical. Photographic documentation of all live lineup and photo lineup members and show up suspects, as well as all descriptions provided by the eyewitness is critical. Videotaped recordings, with audio, are preferred whenever possible. If the video fails, get replacement recording equipment if possible.
3. There must be separate photo lineups and live lineups when there are multiple eyewitnesses, ensuring that the same suspect is placed in a different position for each identification procedure.
4. If you are required to conduct more than one live or photo lineup because there is a new suspect, do not reuse the same non-suspects from the first lineup.
5. Lineups shall be administered by a blind or blinded administrator who does not know which member of the lineup is the suspect. Document whether the administrator was either "blind" or "blinded". In a live lineup where there are multiple witnesses, the administrator should present separate live lineups, ensuring that the same suspect is placed in a different position for each identification procedure with the different witnesses. This will prevent any inadvertent or unintentional suggestions from occurring. Prior to viewing the lineup, witnesses shall be given specific instructions. The instructions can be found on the Lineup, Show-up, and Photographic Identification Form. This will help the individual make an identification or non-identification based on their memory. The instructions include the following statements to be made to witnesses so that they will understand the process:
  - a. I understand that you saw the person who committed this crime.

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- b. You are going to view a group of people.
  - c. Take as much time as you need to look at each person and let me know if you see the suspect.
  - d. Remember that features such as head and facial hair can change.
  - e. The person who committed the crime may or may not be present; therefore, you do not have to identify anyone.
  - f. Remember that the investigation will continue whether you do or do not identify someone.
  - g. Do you have any questions?
5. It is important to follow several general guidelines in order to maximize the reliability of identifications.
- a. Only one suspect should be included in each lineup even if there are multiple suspects in the case.
  - b. The live lineup should consist of at least five persons.
  - c. If possible, officers should not be used as fill-ins for the lineup.
  - d. Lineups shall be conducted sequentially (where the witness only sees one member of the lineup at a time).
  - e. "Blank" lineups may be conducted, where witnesses are shown more than one lineup. In this case, the suspect would only be present in one of the lineups.
  - f. A group photo should be taken of all persons in a lineup together to illustrate size differences among participants.
  - g. The group photo should not be shown to the eyewitness but will be included with the case file.
  - h. Instruct all those present at the lineup not to suggest in any way who the suspect is.
  - i. All lineup participants must be out of view of the eyewitness prior to the identification procedure.
  - j. Ensure that all participants are numbered consecutively and referred to by number only.
  - k. Each participant will appear one at a time before the eyewitness.
  - l. The courts have held that requiring a participant to speak, wear certain clothes, or carry out actions such as standing, walking, or gesturing, are **not** violations of the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.
  - m. Any identifying actions, such as speech, gesture, or other movements, shall be performed by all lineup participants if they are required of any participant.

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- n. The lineup should be composed so that fillers generally resemble the eyewitnesses' description of the perpetrator so that the suspect does not stand out from the fillers.
6. The primary investigating officer should be responsible for the following:
    - a. Scheduling the lineup on a date and at a time that is convenient for all concerned parties.
    - b. Arranging for the suspect to be available for the lineup, including, if necessary, transportation from a detention center.
    - c. Including only one suspect in each identification procedure with one witness.
    - d. Making arrangements to have four or more persons act as "fillers" during the lineup who are the same sex and approximate height, weight, age, and physical appearance. They should also appear to be the same race and be similarly clothed.
    - e. Avoiding the use of other persons in the lineup who so closely resemble the suspect that a person familiar with the suspect might find it difficult to distinguish the suspect from the fillers.
    - f. Creating a consistent appearance between the suspect and the fillers with respect to any unique or unusual feature (e.g. scars, tattoos, and facial hair) used to describe the perpetrator by artificially adding or concealing that feature.
    - g. Placing suspects in different positions sequentially in each lineup. This holds true for both different cases and with multiple witnesses in the same case.
  7. The officer in charge of conducting the lineup shall be responsible for the following:
    - a. In a case where the suspect is a prisoner and has been formally charged in the case, ensure that they are informed of their right to counsel. Any waiver should be documented in writing or by electronic recording. Suspects who have not been formally charged have no right to counsel at a lineup.
    - b. Document any waiver of counsel either in writing or via electronic recording.
    - c. If defense counsel is present allow them sufficient time to confer with their client prior to the lineup and observe the manner in which the lineup is conducted.
    - d. Advise the suspect that they may take any position in the lineup and may change positions prior to summoning a new witness.
    - e. Ensure that all persons in the lineup are numbered consecutively and are referred to only by number.
    - f. Ensure that witnesses are not permitted to see nor are they shown any photographs of the suspect immediately prior to the lineup.
    - g. In the case of multiple witnesses, ensure that only one witness views the lineup at a time and that they are not permitted to speak with one another either before or after the lineup proceedings regarding the identification of the suspect.
    - h. Avoid using statements, clues, casual comments, or providing unnecessary or irrelevant information that in any manner may influence the witnesses' decision-making process or perception.

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- i. Do not praise or congratulate witnesses for picking the suspect out of the lineup. This may serve to convince a witness that they have picked out the actual perpetrator when they actually have doubts. This increases the chances of a miscarriage of justice and could lead to suppression of later in-court identification of the suspect.
- j. Following the lineup, officers should ask the witness how confident they are in their identification. The administering officer shall request a written or recorded statement in the witness's own words, giving their level of confidence that the person they identified is the person who allegedly committed the crime. Video recordings must be used unless recording equipment is not reasonably available. Officers should advise the witness NOT to discuss the case with other witnesses and NOT to indicate in any way that they have identified or not identified someone.

### C. PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

1. Ensure, where practicable, that the photo used of a suspect is contemporary and resembles the suspect's appearance at the time of the offense.
2. If possible, photographic identifications should be administered by a blind administrator who does not know which photograph indicates the suspect. This will prevent any inadvertent or unintentional suggestions from occurring. Prior to viewing the photographs, witnesses shall be given specific instructions. The instructions can be found on the Lineup, Show-up, and Photographic Identification Form. This will help the individual make an identification or non-identification based on their memory. The instructions include the following:
  - a. I understand that you saw the person who committed this crime.
  - b. You are going to view several pictures.
  - c. Take as much time as you need to look at each picture and let me know if you see a picture of the suspect.
  - d. Remember that features such as head and facial hair can change.
  - e. The person who committed the crime may or may not be present in the group of pictures; therefore you do not have to select one of these pictures.
  - f. Remember that the investigation will continue whether you do or do not select a picture.
  - g. Do you have any questions?
2. Photographic identifications must use multiple photographs. Officers shall show the witness the photographs sequentially (i.e., one after the other) rather than simultaneously. Laboratory studies and research favor a sequential photo lineup to avoid comparison of the individual photos to their memory of the offender rather than to other photos.
3. The general rules discussed in the section for lineups also apply to photographic identifications. Specific procedures for photographic identification include the following:
  - a. At least six photographs of individuals will be used.
  - b. Individuals must be the same sex as well as reasonably similar in age, height, weight, and general appearance. They should also appear to be the same race.

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- c. Use similar types of photographs. Do not mix color photos with black and white photos, use photos of the same basic size and composition, and do not mix mug shots with other photos.
- d. Include only one photo of the suspect.
- e. Cover any information on the photograph, which provides identifying information on the subject.
- f. Whenever possible, have an officer who does not know the identity of the suspect conduct the photographic identification with the witness.
- g. Show photographs to one witness at a time.
- h. Do not make suggestive statements that may influence the judgment or perception of the witness.
- i. Do not praise or congratulate witnesses for picking the suspect out of the lineup. This may serve to convince a witness that they have picked out the actual perpetrator when they actually have doubts. This increases the chances of a miscarriage of justice and could lead to suppression of later in-court identification of the suspect.
- j. Following the photographic identification, officers should ask the witness how confident they are in their identification and document the witness level of confidence in a recording. Officers should advise the witness NOT to discuss the case with other witnesses and NOT to indicate in any way that they have identified or not identified someone.
- k. Ensure that positive identifying information exists for all individuals.
- l. If a witness wants to see a particular photo, all photos should be shown to them. All photos in a lineup must be shown, even if the witness has already identified their suspect.

### D. SHOW-UPS

1. Show-ups are a highly scrutinized law enforcement action, and many courts have suppressed identification evidence based on their use because of the inherent suggestiveness of the practice. Therefore, show-ups should be avoided when possible, especially in situations where lineups or photographic identification may be used.
2. The Department of Public Safety acknowledges that a show-up may provide sufficient probable cause early in an investigation to help avoid the escape of a prime suspect or help in the release of an innocent person. This may potentially refocus the investigation to more productive areas. For this reason, show-ups may be reasonable and appropriate in some situations. They should be administered at a time close to the commission of the crime.

**Show-ups should NOT be used when independent probable cause exists to arrest a suspect.**

3. Prior to the show-up, witnesses shall be given specific instructions, which can be found on the Lineup, Show-up, and Photographic Identification Form. This will help in identification or non-identification based on their memory. They include the following:
  - a. I understand that you saw the person who committed this crime.



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- b. You are going to view a person or persons.
  - c. Take as much time as you need to look at the person(s) and let me know if you see the suspect.
  - d. The person who committed the crime may or may not be present; therefore you do not have to identify anyone.
  - f. Remember that the investigation will continue whether you do or do not identify someone.
  - g. Do you have any questions?
4. When show-ups are used the following procedures should be followed:
- a. Prior to a show-up, the witness should provide officers with as complete a description of the suspect as possible. The description shall be documented on the Lineup, Show-up, and Photographic Identification Form.
  - b. The witness should be taken to the suspect's location rather than bringing the suspect to the witness. The location should be a neutral, non-law enforcement location.
  - c. The witness should be transported in a departmental vehicle.
  - d. Show-ups should not be conducted when the suspect is in a cell, handcuffed, or in jail clothing. The suspect should be removed from a law enforcement squad car before the witness arrives on the scene.
  - e. Show-ups should not be conducted with more than one witness present at a time. In instances where a show-up is conducted separately for more than one witness, the witnesses should not be permitted to communicate before or after the show-up regarding the identification of the suspect.
  - f. The same suspect should not be shown to the same witness more than one time.
  - g. Suspects in a show-up should not be required to put on clothing worn by the perpetrator, to speak words uttered by the perpetrator, or to perform other actions of the perpetrator.
  - h. Officers should avoid any words or actions, which may suggest to the witness that the individual is or may be the perpetrator.
  - i. Officers should not praise or congratulate the witness for picking out the suspect. This may serve to convince a witness that they have picked out the actual perpetrator when they actually have doubts. This increases the chances of a miscarriage of justice and could lead to suppression of later in-court identification of the suspect.
  - j. Following the show-up, officers should ask the witness how confident they are in their identification and document the witness level of confidence. Officers should advise the witness NOT to discuss the case with other witnesses and NOT to indicate in any way that they have identified or not identified someone.
  - k. When a show-up is conducted it shall be documented in an offense incident report. The Lineups, Show-ups, and Photographic Identification Form can be used and submitted in addition to the offense incident report. A photograph of the suspect at the time and place of the show-up should be taken.

