



OREGON HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW GUIDE



This is a reference and only for training purposes.

OIS POST INCIDENT IN-PERSON INTERVIEW GUIDELINES FOR DETECTIVES

- This is _____ of the _____ Sheriff's Office/Police Department. My DPSST number is _____.
- I am an investigator of a shooting incident, case # _____, which occurred on (date/approximate time) _____.
- This is a recorded statement for Officer/Deputy/Detective _____ in reference to this shooting investigation.
- Today's date is _____ and the time is _____.
- The location of this interview is the _____.
- This investigation is being conducted by the _____ Sheriff's Office/Police Department, and is in coordination with the following law enforcement agencies:

- Present for this interview are:
Detective: _____ DPSST # _____
Name/Rank/Title: _____
Name/Rank/Title: _____
Union Representative for involved officer: _____
Union Attorney for involved officer: _____

The purpose of this interview is to provide those involved in the investigation an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. This interview is not intended to stand alone, and is only a portion of this investigation. The interview will be transcribed and the transcription will be added to the case file in its entirety. The transcription will also be provided to the involved officer(s), or their legal representative, upon request.

Notes: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO BE COVERED PRIOR TO DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT:

- Current employer
- Time with the agency
- Rank
- Any prior law enforcement experience
- Any prior military experience
- Current duty assignment
- Past or additional assignments
- Assignment at the time of this incident
- Any specialized training (The investigators can also obtain a copy of training records from DPSST)
- Shift start time
- One or two officer car, if two officers- partner's name, were they the driver or passenger?
- Radio call sign
- What type of vehicle? Marked or unmarked?
- Uniform that day and description.
- Consider using a copy of dispatch documentation (CAD) of the incident for the officer to view.

Upon completion of this review of information, begin interview with focus on the incident.

(See the following pages for an overview of some more specific questions that might be pertinent.)

At the end of the interview, the following statements should be read-

- “Does anyone present have any further questions?”
- “Officer/Deputy/Detective _____ is there anything you would like to add to your statement at this time?”
- “This concludes the interview. The time now is _____.”

Overview of some more specific questions pertinent to critical incidents:

A. Information/Details prior to arriving at the scene

- How did the officer learn about this incident? (dispatched, self-initiated, flagged down?)
- How did the officer get the location information? (code 1, 2, or 3, and the route taken)
- Did the officer have any prior information about the individual or location?
- Radio transmissions or information while in route to the location
- While responding to the location was there communication involving tactics or planning?
(Staging location, request for additional resources/personnel/K9/SWAT)
- Where and how did the officer approach the scene?

B. Information at the scene

- Describe the topography of the areas involved.
(Cover, concealment, lighting, obstacles, consider showing a diagram or sketch)
- Upon arrival was there communication between officers on scene
(Identify other officers present on scene, was a plan made to approach/contact?)
- Describe locations of any other officers (involved, witness, in the area)
- Distance between officer(s) and subject(s)
- Describe vantage point- full view/partial view of subject(s)

C. Observed or direct actions

- Describe own actions during the encounter
- Was there communication between the officer(s) and subject(s)
- Who communicated with the subject(s)? (involved officer(s), witnesses, other suspects)
- How and when was communication established with the subject(s)?
- What was said or communicated to the subject(s)?
- What did the subject(s) say in response? (volume, tone, specific wording, movement)
- Did the subject acknowledge hearing commands or directions by you or other officers?
- Describe the actions or behaviors of the subject(s)
(Threats by word, threats by conduct, weapon threatened/displayed, movement, thoughts or beliefs of the seriousness of the subject's actions or words)

- Describe your own actions (verbal commands, weapon position/direction, field of fire, back drop, number of shots (if known), reaction to subject's actions/shots, impact locations of any rounds (if known))

D. Post encounter observations or actions

- Describe your actions immediately after the encounter
- Did you approach the subject?
- Who approached the subject?
- Was the subject handcuffed? If so, who did the handcuffing?
- Was the subject moved at all? How was the subject positioned?
- Was medical assistance requested and/or first aid rendered?
- What was broadcast on the radio?
- Who approached you and what was said or done?
- Has anyone discussed the details of this case with you or have you learned information about the incident from sources other than your own observations?

E. In-Custody Death Investigations

- What contact did you have with the deceased?
- What contact did you observe others having with the deceased?
- What were your observations of the subject's physical condition prior to the subject being taken into custody?
- How was the deceased taken into custody and what tactics were used? (handcuffs, hobble, restraint techniques, physical contact?)
- How was the deceased positioned? (sitting, laying down, post shooting position?)
- Was the deceased positioned by anyone?
- Where was the deceased positioned and for how long?
- Did you observe any injuries to the deceased?
- When did you notice the deceased was having medical problems?
- How did you and others respond to the medical problems?
- Was medical called? When were they called, and how soon did they arrive?
- What is your training regarding the positioning of restrained persons?