



## How to Bring Sexual Assault Offenders to Justice: A Law Enforcement Response

### Roll-Call Training Video Discussion Questions

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This discussion guide is designed to reinforce key information contained in the roll call training video, encourage further discussion and exploration, and assist officers in applying this knowledge to their role, whether first responder, investigator/detective or supervisor.

**To increase the impact of this video, please use in conjunction with: *IACP Sexual Assault Guidelines and Investigative Strategies and Sexual Assault Supplemental Report Form* - (All resources including this video can be found at <http://bit.ly/PoliceResponseToVAW> ).**

(Note: The page numbers following each question reference pages from these Guidelines). Additional information can also be found in the *IACP Investigating Sexual Assaults Model Policy*.

#### Segment One—Realities of Sexual Assault

##### Victims of Sexual Assault

- What are common assumptions about victims of sexual assault and the crime itself?
- Why may a victim be reluctant to report and/or delay reporting? (Page 6)
- Why may a victim choose not to go forward or recant? (Page 6/7)
- What is the possible psychological/traumatic impact sexual assault has on a victim? (Page 6)
- What populations are especially vulnerable to sexual assault? (Page 2)
- What can you ask of victims of domestic violence to determine if sexual violence also occurred? (Page 8)

##### Perpetrators of Sexual Assault

- Why is it important to focus the investigation on the suspect rather than the victim? (Page 7)
- How can a suspect's behaviors/actions before and after an assault be used to build a case? (Page 8)
- What are examples of "grooming" behavior that perpetrators use in adult sexual assault? (Page 8)
- What societal biases and myths do perpetrators use to their advantage?
- What methods do perpetrators use to render a victim more vulnerable or to set the stage for a sexual assault? (Page 8)
- What methods do perpetrators use to damage the credibility of the victim?

## Segment Two—Effectively Preparing Cases

### Interviewing the Victim

- Describe techniques that you have found to be beneficial in building trust with a victim and successfully gathering information. (Page 5/8)
- How might victim trauma affect the interview and investigation? (Page 6)
- What are some of the ways a victim might express lack of consent (verbally & physically)? (Page 4/5)
- While often seen as damaging, how can victim's alcohol/drug use be utilized to strengthen a case? (Page 5)
- How is consent defined in your state statute?
- What are the negative consequences of polygraphing a victim? (Page 6)

### Documenting the Interview

- How might language used in your report and throughout the interview process impact an investigation? (Page 4/5)
- How can you effectively document fear and intimidation? (Page 4/5)
- How can a victim's emotional & psychological reaction during and after an assault be used as evidence to strengthen a case? (Page 4/5/6)
- What terms does your agency use to code sexual assault cases? (Page 3)
- According to agency guidelines:
  - What constitutes a false report?
  - How is a sexual assault unfounded?
- What is the difference between a false report and an unfounded report? (Page 3)

### Interrogating the Suspect

- Describe why sexual assault cases can be called "he said/THEY said" cases? (Page 8)
- What can be gained by allowing the suspect ample opportunity to give an account of the incident? (Page 7)
- How can you identify prior similar (often unreported) acts by the suspect? (Page 8)
- How can a suspect forensic exam be used to strengthen an investigation? (See *IACP Investigating Sexual Assaults Model Policy* - Page 7)

## Segment Three—Working the Case: Techniques and Collaboration

### Techniques to Strengthen an Investigation

- What strategies can be used to counter a defense by the suspect of consent? (Page 7)
- What investigative techniques can be used to strengthen an investigation? (Page 4)
- What are the benefits of creating a timeline of the events in a sexual assault case?
  - What are some of the key events to identify? (Page 8)

- How can a pretext phone call be used to strengthen an investigation? (Page 7)
- How can a strong relationship with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) be beneficial to:
  - A case
  - An investigator
  - A victim
- What are the advantages of working with a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to investigate a sexual assault case?
- What community organizations has your department partnered with to better respond to and serve victims?
- How are these partnerships beneficial to:
  - Officers/investigators
  - Victims
- How could these partnerships be improved?
- In what ways could you/your department strengthen and/or build new collaborative relationships to better serve victims and the community?

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