


<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS		NUMBER: 422
	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 7, 2022	REVIEW: November, 2025	
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: POLYGRAPH SECTION			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 440.3 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 42.2.5		
	VLEPSC:		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines and procedures for all Department employees on the use of polygraph examinations for criminal investigations.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) to utilize polygraph examinations as investigative aids in strict accordance with all regulations governing polygraph examiners set forth by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. Polygraph examinations may constitute an effective and valid means of confirming or disproving individual statements that cannot be corroborated by other means. In order to defend against charges of misuse or harassment, standardization of procedures and uniform criteria must be implemented prior to usage in order to protect the interests of all victims, witnesses, and suspects without unduly hampering a criminal investigation.

III. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. Officers and detectives should refrain from mentioning polygraph examinations during the preliminary stages of a criminal investigation. Where inconsistencies or conflicts materialize and perpetuate, officers and detectives should exhaust alternative methods of determining veracity of individual statements prior to requesting a polygraph examination.
- B. **Polygraph Request Procedures:** Where inconsistencies still exist, after the exhaustion of all alternative investigative means, and with the express consent of the questioned individual, detectives may request the use of a polygraph examination by submitting the [Polygraph Examination Request \(PD 168\)](#) form to the Polygraph Section supervisor with the approval of their direct supervisor. Submitting detectives shall personally contact the Polygraph Section to

determine the time and date of the polygraph examination and ensure that a copy of the request form is retained in their case file.

C. **Restrictions:** Where any victim of an alleged criminal offense is requested to submit to a polygraph examination during the course of the investigation, that victim shall be informed in writing that (1) the examination is voluntary, (2) the results thereof are inadmissible as evidence, and (3) their refusal to submit to a polygraph examination shall not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of the offense where probable cause exists.

1. **Note:** Per the [Code of Virginia](#), victims of alleged sexual offenses shall never be requested to submit to a polygraph examination as a condition for proceeding with investigation of such an offense.

IV. SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

A. Investigating officers and detectives shall contact the individual to be tested one day prior to the administration of the polygraph examination to confirm their presence at the appointment and notify the polygraph examiner in a timely manner of any cancellations.

B. Officers and detectives who have scheduled polygraph examinations shall meet in-person with the polygraph examiner assigned to their case at least one day prior to the examination being administered and present all documents requested on the [PD 168](#) form.

C. Officers and detectives who schedule polygraph examinations are expected to be present on the date of the examination unless another officer or detective is representing them in their absence. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the cancellation of the polygraph examination and notification will be made to the officer or detective's immediate supervisor. Emergency situations that result in non-compliance may be considered on an individual basis.

V. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

A. All Department polygraph examiners shall keep and maintain a valid Virginia Polygraph License issued by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). Polygraph examiners are required to attend an approved polygraph school and successfully complete all training requirements as set forth by the Virginia Department of Occupational Regulation.

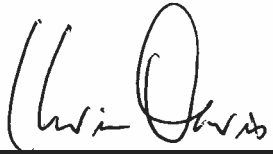
VI. LEGAL REFERENCES

- A. [Va. Code Ann. § 19.2-91.1](#), Written notice required for complaining witness who is requested to take polygraph test.
- B. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1800](#), Definitions.
- C. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1801](#), Licenses.
- D. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1802.1](#), Powers and duties of the Department.
- E. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1803](#), Approval of school to teach courses of instruction.
- F. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1804](#), Submission of fingerprints.
- G. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1805](#), Instrument to be used.
- H. [Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-1806](#), Prohibition of use of certain questions on polygraph tests for employment.

General Order 422 becomes effective on the above date and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Chief of Police



County Executive