

LAW ENFORCEMENT SEMINARS LLC

SYLLABUS

Course Title

Sexual Assault Investigation:

Comprehensive instruction from the original offense to obtaining a conviction at trial.

Length of Course

12 hours

History and Purpose

Sexual assault cases are some of the most challenging types of investigations that criminal investigators face. Delays in reporting, uneasy victims, lack of evidence, and credible suspects often reduce the likelihood of successful prosecution. Participants in this course, whether new investigators or seasoned veterans, will learn innovative, courtroom-proven investigative techniques. Attendees will examine types and sources of evidence, rapport building with victims through trauma informed interview techniques, suspect interview techniques, supportive services, beneficial pretrial motions, case law, and issues surrounding false reports. Case studies illustrate key points.

The course instructors are veteran sexual assault investigators who offer proven methods and are passionate about conducting aggressive investigations that lead to positive outcomes. Participants will leave with increased understanding, tools to conduct more in-depth investigations, resources to better manage victims, and tactics to obtain information from suspects.

Participants

This training is recommended for officers new to law enforcement, veteran investigators, and police supervisors.

COURSE COMPOSITION

HOURS

1.1	Investigative Principles and Assault Statistics	2.0
1.2	Types and Sources of Evidence	3.0
1.3	Interacting with Victims and Suspects	3.0
1.4	Trial Activities	2.0
1.5	Case Studies	1.5
1.6	Summary/Evaluations	0.5

Course Goals

Upon completing this training, participants gain:

- An understanding of current sexual assault statistics
- An overview of the origins of reports
- A working knowledge of the types and sources of evidence
- Guidelines for interviewing victims using a trauma informed approach
- Strategies for obtaining evidence, including confessions from suspects
- Simple methods to improve trial preparation and best utilize rules of criminal procedure
- Specific examples from real world cases

Section Title: Introduction and Course Overview / Investigative Principles and Assault Statistics

Learning Goal: Instructors will detail goals, objectives, and participant responsibilities. An overview of the course material will be presented. Participants and instructors will introduce themselves.

Performance Objectives: Participants will have an understanding of course content and topic areas.

Section Title: Types and Sources of Evidence

Learning Goal: Instructors will present an overview of the types and sources of evidence, including recorded phone calls and electronic evidence, physical evidence, outcry, victim, suspect and witness interviews, paper documentation, photographs, and prison resources.

Performance Objectives: Participants will understand and recognize new types of evidence and the methods used to obtain key information.

Section Title: Interacting with Victims and Suspects

Learning Goal: Instructors will explain the benefit of child advocacy centers and the multidisciplinary team, strategies to prepare before the formal interview, use of trauma informed interview techniques, provide sample questions, and the benefit of obtaining a description of the suspect's body. Techniques for managing victim's fear, issues that surround delayed reporting, and victim services will be discussed.

Performance Objectives: Participants will identify methods to increase information acquisition from both the victim and suspect.

Section Title: Trial Activities

Learning Goal: Instructors will present an overview of best practices of trial preparation and execution. The benefits of supportive case law and rules of evidence will be explored. The use of expert testimony will be introduced.

Performance Objectives: Participants will recognize the value of communication with the prosecutor, victim, and witness services. They will be given resources and actionable items to increase the likelihood of a conviction.

Section Title: Case Studies

Learning Goal: Instructors will review actual cases that illustrate key investigative steps from the original offense to obtaining a conviction at trial. Various innovative techniques will be explored. Methodologies to obtain information and key details needed for prosecution will be presented.

Performance Objectives: Participants will learn strategies to further investigations even when momentum slows, victims present difficulties, suspects refuse to interview, and crucial information is missing.

Section Title: Summary/Evaluations

Learning Goal: The instructor will provide participants an opportunity for questions and answers of any previously covered material. Course evaluations will be completed, and certificates will be distributed.

Performance Objectives: Participants will clarify any misunderstanding they may have from the course material. Participants will also have an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and instructional staff.