

Chapter 17

Polygraph Examinations

<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Title</u>
17-1	Purpose
17-2	Policy
17-3	Procedures

**Office of Investigations
Policy and Procedures Handbook**

1. Purpose

The polygraph is a scientific diagnostic instrument that, in the hands of a trained examiner, can be used reliably to confirm or disprove statements uncorroborated by other means. While the polygraph is recognized as an important investigative aid, certain restrictions must be placed on its use.

2. Policy

- A.** With AIGI approval, a polygraph examination may be used by OIG employees conducting criminal and administrative investigations.
 - 1.** The polygraph does not replace a thorough, aggressive investigation and should be considered as one, of many, tools available to corroborate information. Decisions to request a witness or subject to submit to a polygraph examination should consider all relevant factors of the case.
 - 2.** In criminal cases, investigators are to consult with the U.S Attorney's Office or with state and local prosecutors before conducting examinations.
- B.** Polygraph examinations are conducted only with subjects who voluntarily have consented in writing to the examination and been fully informed of the conditions contained in the Statement of Consent for Polygraph Examination.
 - 1.** If the subject is a juvenile, obtain written parental permission for the polygraph and offer parents the option of being present.
 - 2.** The polygraph examiner is responsible for determining the subject's suitability for an examination.

3. Procedures

Only certified examiners can be used. When practical, federal examiners who have received certification from the Department of the Defense Polygraph Institute (DODPI) should be used for federal criminal cases.

- A.** To request authorization to conduct a polygraph examination, an investigator submits a Polygraph Authorization Form to the SAC/DIR for approval. If approved, the form is forwarded to the AIGI for final approval.
- B.** When notified of approval, the investigator arranges a site for the polygraph examination, as well as the examiner's logistical support. OIG usually covers travel and per diem.

**Office of Investigations
Policy and Procedures Handbook**

- C.** Prior to administering the polygraph, the requesting investigator briefs the examiner on case facts, discusses relevant test issues, and answers the examiner's questions.
- D.** If possible, the investigator witnesses the examiner advising the subject of his or her rights, as well as the subject's consent to the polygraph.
- E.** The polygraph examiner ensures that advisement of rights and consent forms are signed.

POLYGRAPH AUTHORIZATION FORM (OI-017)

STATEMENT OF CONSENT FOR POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION (OI-018)

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT FOR THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION
OF A JUVENILE (OI-019)**



**United States Department of the Interior
Office of Inspector General**

POLYGRAPH AUTHORIZATION FORM

Case Name:	Case Number:	Date Opened:
Case Agent:	Office:	Location:
Summary of Allegation(s):		
Projected travel cost (for Examinee):		
Project cost for room rental:		
Agency administering polygraph examinations: <input type="checkbox"/> FBI <input type="checkbox"/> USSS <input type="checkbox"/> FDA <input type="checkbox"/> other _____		
Location: _____	Date of polygraph examination:	

SAC/Director Signature

Date

DAIGI Signature

Date

AIGI Signature

Date

Approved Disapproved

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OI-017 (04/08)



**United States Department of the Interior
Office of Inspector General**

STATEMENT OF CONSENT FOR POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION

I, _____, have been requested by Special Agent
_____, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, to
submit to a polygraph examination in connection with an investigation concerning:
_____.

I have been advised that:

- (a) The polygraph examination will be conducted only with my consent.
- (b) No adverse action will be taken against me solely on the grounds that I refuse to consent to this examination.
- (c) The area in which the examination is to be conducted does does not contain audio/visual devices for monitoring.
- (d) I am not required to take a polygraph examination and that even after consenting to do so, I can stop the examination at any time.

Signature of Special Agent

Date

Signature of Examinee

Date

Witness

Date

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**United States Department of the Interior
Office of Inspector General**

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT FOR THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION
OF A JUVENILE**

I, _____, being the parent/legal guardian of _____,
who is _____ years of age, do hereby permit him/her to undergo a polygraph
examination. The examination will be conducted pursuant to an investigation
regarding:_____.

I have been advised that:

- (a) The polygraph examination will be conducted only with my consent, which I may withdraw at any time.
- (b) _____ must voluntarily consent to the examination and his/her consent may be withdrawn at any time.
- (c) The area in which the examination is to be conducted does does not contain audio/visual devices for monitoring.
- (d) Even after consenting to this polygraph examination, we can stop the examination at any time.

Understanding my right to refuse, I consent to _____ undergoing a polygraph examination. I make this decision freely and voluntarily and with no promises extended or threats having been made to me.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Juvenile

Date

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