

Subject: Field Interviews	Page 1 of 2
Effective Date: January 2018	Revision Date:
Amends/Supercedes:	Approved by: Chief Kevin Higdon
Meets Accreditation Standard:	17.6

Section 1200.60 Field Interviews

PURPOSE

Field interviews may be conducted anytime a Shively Police Department (SPD) officer detains an individual (e.g. Terry Stop, traffic stop) for the purpose of a criminal investigation. Field interviews shall be used to:

- Detect the perpetrators of past crimes.
- Deter the commission of future crimes.
- Determine if a crime, in fact, has been committed.

POLICY

Field interviews are an important point of contact for officers in preventing and investigating criminal activity. Field interviews may be perceived by some citizens as a means of harassment or intimidation conducted in a discriminatory manner against groups or individuals. In order to maintain the effectiveness and legitimacy of this practice and to protect the safety of officers in approaching suspicious individuals, officers will conduct field interviews in accordance with this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Search: An examination of an individual's premises, person or property in which he/she has a reasonable expectation of privacy. The purpose of the search is discovering contraband, weapons, or other evidence of guilt, to be used in a criminal prosecution. A search involves a prying into, or manipulating of, concealed or hidden places in order to discover something criminal in nature. Items in plain view shall not constitute a search. A search shall only be conducted pursuant to a warrant, with consent or under exigent circumstances with probable cause.

Consent: To voluntarily agree to an act or proposal of another.

Consent Search: A search made by law enforcement officers based on the consent of the individual whose person or property is being searched.

Reasonable Suspicion: Articulable facts that, within the totality of the circumstances, lead an officer to reasonably suspect that criminal activity has been, is being or is about to be committed.

Probable Cause: The level of evidence, held by a rational and objective observer, necessary to justify logically accusing a specific suspect of a particular crime, based upon reliable objective facts.

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

Subject: Field Interviews	Page 2 of 2
Effective Date: January 2018	Revision Date:
Amends/Supercedes:	Approved by: Chief Kevin Higdon
Meets Accreditation Standard:	17.6

Field Contact: The gathering of detailed information from a person, either a possible suspect or witness, or visual observation that may provide useful information on criminal activity which has occurred, is occurring or may occur in the future. A field interview is a component.

Field Interview: The brief detainment of, or consensual contact with, an individual, whether on foot or in a vehicle, based upon reasonable suspicion for the purposes of determining the individual's identity and resolving the officer's suspicions.

Pat Down: A "frisk," or the external feeling of the outer garments of an individual, for weapons. A pat down shall only be conducted on reasonable grounds that the individual being subjected to the pat down is armed and dangerous to the officer or others. A pat down does not include manipulating, or grasping, the outer garments or reaching inside of, or opening, the garments (e.g. pockets, jackets, etc.).

Terry Stop: A stop of an individual by law enforcement officers based upon reasonable suspicion that the individual may have been engaged, is engaging or is about to engage in criminal activity.

FIELD INTERVIEW PROCEDURES

Officers will conduct a Terry Stop of individuals for the purpose of conducting a field interview only when reasonable suspicion is present. In justifying the stop, the officer must be able to point to specific facts that, when taken together with rational inferences, reasonably warrant the stop. Based upon an observance of suspicious circumstances or upon information from an investigation, an officer may initiate the stop of a suspect if he/she has an articulated reasonable suspicion of a crime to do so. The following should be done when making an authorized stop to conduct a field interview:

- When approaching the suspect, the officer should clearly identify himself/herself as a SPD officer and, if in plainclothes, announce his/her identity, displaying his/her credentials.
- Officers will be courteous at all times during the contact but maintain caution and vigilance for movements to retrieve weapons, conceal or discard contraband or other suspicious actions.
- Before approaching more than one (1) suspect, officers should determine whether the circumstances warrant a request for backup and whether the contact can, and should be, delayed until assistance arrives.
- Officers are not required to advise suspects of their Miranda rights in order to conduct field interviews unless the person is in custody and about to be interrogated.
- Suspects are not required, nor can they be compelled, to answer any questions during field interviews.
- Under no circumstances will an officer detain a suspect for longer than what is reasonably necessary to make reasonable inquiries and either confirm or refute his/her suspicions of criminal activity.