

Most police detectives and interrogators in Michigan are trained in the following method of interrogation. Key points to look at here, the suspect really not allowed to talk much until step 8. Another key point with this technique is that it is not concerned with voluntariness of the statement until the police are recording the statement at the end of Step 9.

The REID 9 STEPS OF INTERROGATION, IN BRIEF

Step One: Direct Positive Confrontation

- A. Presentation of fact synopsis to suspect.
- B. Reference to evidence, real or fictional.
- C. Suspect is told that he is involved in the crime.
- D. Behavioral observation of suspect.
- E. Restatement of confrontation, stronger or weaker.

Step Two: Theme Development

- A. Transition phases from confrontation.
- B. Propose reasons that will justify or excuse the commission of the crime.
- C. Behavioral assessment of suspect to choose proper theme.
- D. Longest portion of 9 steps.

Step Three: Stopping Denials

- A. Both guilty and innocent deny the crime at issue.
- B. Starts during direct positive confrontation.
- C. Absence of denials in step two indicates probable guilt.
- D. Interrogator recognizes and stops denial before it is complete.
- E. Progress is indicated by cessation or weakening of denials.

Step Four: Overcoming Objections

- A. Suspect proposes a reason why he allegedly did not commit the crime.
- B. Normally offered by only the guilty.
- C. Indicates progress in the interrogation if given after denials.
- D. Handled differently than denials by first listening and accepting.
- E. Proper handling of objections helps overcome the subject's defenses.

Step Five: Getting the Suspect's Attention

- A. Suspect is on defensive and is tense and confused.
- B. The themes will work only if suspect is listening.
- C. Interrogator reaches peak of sincerity in his speech.
- D. Physical closeness and use of verbal techniques to command attention.
- E. Physical gestures of sincerity are used to establish attitude of understanding and

concern.

Step Six: The Suspect Quiets and Listens

- A. The physical signs of surrender begin to appear.
- B. The themes are shortened and lead toward alternatives.
- C. Establishment of eye contact is most important at this point by verbal and physical techniques.
- D. Tears at this stage positively indicate the suspect's guilt.

Step Seven: Alternatives

- A. Non-threatening to suspect they concern some minor aspect of the crime.
- B. Gives choice between acceptable reason and unacceptable reason for committing t crime.
- C. One alternative is stressed to lead subject to choose the positive alternative.
- D. Either choice is an admission of guilt.

Step Eight: Bringing the Suspect into the Conversation.

- A. The acceptance of one alternative is reinforced by the interrogator.
- B. The suspect is encouraged to talk about aspect of the crime.
- C. The use of realistic words is introduced by the interrogator.
- D. Initial corroboration of the confession is begun.
- E. Oral witnessing of admissions by two persons.

Step Nine: The Confession

- A. Reduction of oral statement into written, typed, or electronically recorded form.
- B. Voluntariness of statement is established along with corroboration of details.
- C. Suspect's signing of statement is witnessed by two or more persons.

Post Interrogation Interview:

- A. Provides a method to determine technique effectiveness.
- B. Keeps guilty suspect in proper frame of mind during typing of formal statement.
- C. Allows interrogator to calm down an innocent suspect who was confronted.

This comes from *Practical Aspects of Interview and Interrogation*, David E. Zulawski, and Douglas E. Wicklander,
CRC Press, Ann Arbor, 1998.