

Questions to Use for Crime Scene Identification of Limited English Proficient (LEP)

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These are questions that an officer can use to assist in determining an individual's ability to communicate in English. They can also create an opportunity for the officer to develop rapport and for a Limited English Proficient (LEP) victim or witness a person to express their need for an interpreter to.

These are questions that could be asked once the crime scene has been secured.

The following are scenarios that provide questions you can ask individuals you come in contact with to determine whether a person speaks English as their first language. These questions are specifically designed not to be investigatory.

SCENARIOS

These are sample introductory questions that an officer can ask when meeting a person that is potentially LEP. They are based on scenarios that an officer will likely encounter during his or her patrol. The goal is to ask questions that are not related to information the officer may need to for a criminal case, that can build rapport with victims and witnesses, and avoid yes/no questions helping officers assess the need for a qualified interpreter to help LEP persons communicate with law enforcement and promote accuracy of police reports and criminal investigations.

Domestic Violence

- a. Who else lives here?
- b. Who else lives here with you?
- c. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?
- d. What school do your children go to? (If there is a child present)

Sexual Assault in the Workplace

- a. What is your job here?
- b. How do you get to work every day?
- c. How long have you been working at this company?
- d. What hours do you work?

Routine Traffic Stop/ Fender Bender Investigation

- a. Where are you headed today?
- b. Where are you coming from today?
- c. Do you why I pulled you over?

Violent Crime in Public [i.e. a robbery, assault, purse snatching]

- a. Where do you live?
- b. How did you get here today?
- c. Is there a friend or family member I can call to come get you?

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² Originally developed for The Albuquerque Police Department in collaboration with the Albuquerque Mayor's Sexual and Domestic Violence Taskforce

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