



# CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Department Policy Manual

TITLE: EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION  
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### PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to establish for eyewitness identification procedures involving show-ups and photo arrays.

### POLICY

Officers shall adhere to the procedures for conducting eyewitness identifications set forth in this policy, and in procedure 4.12 in order to maximize the reliability of identifications, minimize erroneous identifications, and gather evidence that conforms to contemporary eyewitness identification protocols. Photo arrays will be conducted by displaying the suspect and fillers sequentially using a blind administration.

### DEFINITIONS

- **SHOW-UP:** The presentation of a suspect to an eyewitness within a short time frame following the commission of a crime to either confirm or eliminate him or her as a possible perpetrator. Show-ups, sometimes referred to as field identifications, are conducted in a contemporaneous time frame and proximity to the crime.
- **PHOTO ARRAY:** A means of presenting photographs to an eyewitness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating suspects.
- **ADMINISTRATOR:** The law enforcement official conducting the identification procedure.
- **CONFIDENCE STATEMENT:** A statement in the witness's own words taken immediately after an identification is made stating his or her level of certainty in the identification.
- **FILLER:** A photograph of a person included in an identification procedure who is not considered a suspect.
- **SEQUENTIAL:** Presentation of a series of photographs or individuals to a witness one at a time.
- **SIMULTANEOUS:** Presentation of a series of photographs or individuals to a witness all at once.

### SHOW-UPS

The use of show-ups should be avoided whenever possible in preference to the use of a lineup or photo array procedure. However, when circumstances require the prompt presentation of a suspect to a witness, a show-up may be conducted for suspect identification purposes. Officers must ensure that a show-up is conducted in a manner that minimizes potential suggestiveness and increases reliability.

### PHOTO ARRAY

The Crystal Police Department will conduct photographic line-ups utilizing the sequential blind presentation procedure consisting of a minimum of six photographs which include five fillers and one

suspect. Fillers will be reasonably similar in age, height, weight, and general appearance and be of the same sex and race as the witness's description of the offender. Officers will never include more than one suspect in a lineup, but shall craft separate lineups for separate suspects. Officers shall not digitally alter any photos used in a photo array, as they are considered evidence in a legal proceeding. Officers may crop photographs so as to make them a similar size and ratio as the other photographs in the array, but shall not crop any portion of the image that includes physical identifying features. Officers may obscure the outfit of the depicted individual so as to reduce the suggestiveness of a jail uniform.

The presentation of the photo array to a witness shall be audio or video recorded. During the presentation of the lineup, no officer who is aware of the suspects identity should be present. Witness shall not be shown photos of the suspects prior to the administration of the photo array. Officers presenting a line-up photo array shall read from the presentation script outlined in the Crystal Police Department Photo Identification form. Officers should avoid the use of statements, cues, or comments that may influence the decision-making process of a witness. The viewing witness shall provide detail and sign the Crystal Police Department Photo Identification Form. Following an identification of a suspect in a photo array, the administrator shall ask the witness to provide a confidence statement.