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Methodological guidelines “Special considerations of pre-test interview in polygraph testing” were developed by practicing polygraph examiners from Ukraine – Vitalii Shapovalov and Diana Aliksieieva-Protsiuk.

The subject area of the guidelines is the first part of polygraph examination, namely: pretest interview procedure.

The authors point out that professional polygraph literature, ASTM international standards in the field of psychophysiological detection of deception and the standards of practice of American Polygraph Association (APA) do not have clear and rigid rules or requirements for the algorithm and sequence of pre-test interview. General rules for conducting a pre-test interview as an integral part of the polygraph examination have been drafted over the decades of using polygraph in the field and experimental research and reflected in scientific articles, standards of practice and manuals. They might vary in minor respects, but most of the components are mandatory, regardless of the author or polygraph technique in use.

The authors are trying to provide ordered information for practicing polygraph examiners regarding the policy and procedure of a pre-test interview during investigation (in criminal proceedings, during internal and private investigations) as well as during screening multi-issue tests.

The guidelines provide detailed information on:

- arrangements preceding polygraph examination;
- a separate detailed algorithm for a pre-test interview during diagnostic and screening tests;
- different strategies and tactics applicable during a pre-test interview.

The objective of the present study is to provide general guidelines an individual examiner might consider using, and should not be perceived as a rigid algorithm for conducting a pre-test interview. The authors were seeking to introduce contemporary world practices to the reader and share their own on-the-job experience acquired over the years of routine work in the field.

The work was recommended for publication by the Scientific and Methodological Council of the National Academy of Internal Affairs (Minutes #9 of May 20, 2019).

Vitalii Shapovalov