

Tactical Credibility Assessment Technology

Leveraging Modern Credibility Assessment Technologies and Interviewing Techniques to Identify Victims and Aid in Sex Offender Risk Assessment

By Mark Handler (Director of Professional Services, Converus)

Overview

Bourke et al. (2014) describes the application of the traditional polygraph examination in a screening application known as “tactical polygraph.” The examination is offered to a suspect arrested for possession of child pornography, shortly after the initial police contact, usually after serving a search warrant for the suspected possession of child pornography or following a solicitation “sting” arrest.

The idea is to allow the suspect an opportunity to disclose or deny past “hands-on” offenses on a minor and verify that through the polygraph. This application of this screening credibility assessment was quite effective — raising the base rate of admissions from under 5% to over 50%.

It is understood that one of the biggest predictors of whether someone will make a statement against self-interest is their perception of the evidence against them. Failing an accurate credibility assessment test exerts psychological pressure on the suspect to admit to hands-on offenses.

Knowing that a suspect has failed an accurate credibility assessment examination gives law enforcement personnel the added evidence they may need to justify continuing an interview with a suspect.

Likewise, passing a valid credibility assessment examination provides support to the idea that the suspect did not have “hands-on” sexual contact with a minor. This information can be helpful to Law Enforcement Investigators, Treatment Providers and Probation & Parole Officers when assessing risk.

Additional anecdotal experiences by field credibility assessment experts suggests that about 50% of child pornography possessors will report at least one “hands-on” sexual contact with a minor after failing the test.

Unfortunately, not all task forces, therapist, or parole/probation agencies have a full-time polygraph examiner assigned to their team.

Polygraph training is expensive, time-consuming and requires a considerable amount of practice to become proficient. Polygraph also requires an extensive amount of time and can be restrictive in its deployment.

Benefits

EyeDetect has as much peer-reviewed scientific research as any of the polygraph techniques in use today. As such, EyeDetect can help encourage disclosure of, deter, and identify offender problem behaviors.

EyeDetect training takes about two hours and can be conducted online by video. The EyeDetect equipment is portable and fits in a small backpack. Tests are available in a multitude of languages, obviating the need for an interpreter.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

With EyeDetect, a new credibility assessment technique, law enforcement agencies can become self-sufficient. Many *ICAC task force members* are excellent interviewers. Placing a fast, accurate and portable credibility assessment tool in their hands provides an advantage they lacked.

EyeDetect personnel are available to familiarize task force investigators with the solution and its potential in “tactical” credibility screening.

Treatment Providers

EyeDetect is also used today as an effective tool in clinical treatment. *Treatment providers* use it to assess patient progress by verifying claims of compliance. If the offender has a history of “hands-on” offenses, treatment providers may better assess that offender’s risk levels with this test.

Because EyeDetect can be readily administered in their office, treatment providers can more quickly and accurately determine if an offender is violating rules and can begin investigative actions. EyeDetect personnel are available to familiarize treatment providers with EyeDetect’s potential to add information to their clinical evaluations.

Parole and Probation

Probation and parole officers can use EyeDetect to verify that offenders are compliant with their rules of probation or parole. EyeDetect can be readily administered onsite to quickly and accurately determine if a parolee or probationer has violated rules and can begin investigative actions.

EyeDetect personnel are available to familiarize probation and parole officers with EyeDetect’s potential to help manage offender behavior.

Summary

EyeDetect provides a non-contact, computer-based test for adult and juvenile populations. It is compliant with the CDC’s guidelines for safe social distancing. And, it has been used to successfully test juveniles as young as 11 years old.