

Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board

SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Subject: Polygraph Examination

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Effective Date: January 18, 2023

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This Substantive Policy Statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency. It also does not impose additional requirements or penalties on the regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act. If you believe that this Substantive Policy Statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S.”) Section 41-1033 for a review of the statement. (A.R.S. §41-1091).

There are Board administrative rules which require an agency to administer a polygraph examination. For example, **A.A.C. R13-4-106C8** requires an agency to administer a polygraph examination to assist in determining whether an individual, seeking appointment, meets the Board’s minimum qualification standards. Additionally, when the Board has assigned a designation of “resolve in the future”, a hiring agency must administer a polygraph examination to an inactive peace officer, who is seeking reemployment. **A.A.C. R13-4-106C8(d)**. Also, a polygraph examination is required, under certain circumstances, when an individual is seeking reinstatement from inactive status. **A.A.C. R13-4-104(F)**.

The Board requires that a polygraph examination include a detailed report of the pre-test interview and the post-test interview to all questions that concern minimum standards for appointment as required by R13-4-105; truthfulness on the personal history statement; commission of any crimes; and any board case with an RF designation. **A.A.C. R13-4-106C8**.

However, the term “polygraph examination” is not defined in either the Board’s rules, A.A.C. R13-4-101 et seq., or in its statutes, ARS 41-1821 et seq. In addition, the term polygraph is referenced in various Arizona statutes, but no definition is offered. As such, the Board has looked for guidance from other jurisdictions and from within the industry of polygraph examiners. In sum, the Board views a polygraph examination as an instrument, used to render a diagnostic opinion, as to the honesty or dishonesty of an individual, and which records continuously, visually, permanently, and simultaneously changes in cardiovascular, respiratory, and electro dermal patterns as minimum instrumentation standards.