



Criminal Investigation Techniques Course: Investigative Interviewing and Case Files



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Introduction:

Criminal investigation techniques, from investigative interviewing to case files, form this 5-day course for police, prosecution support and regulatory investigators that ends with a documented case investigation file. Cases are lost when early opportunities pass unrecorded, lines of enquiry close too soon, interviews rely on pressure rather than planning, and files reach prosecutors with gaps in disclosure. Nominees already handle investigations at work, and the course is taught through case study work with rehearsed interviews on a developing case. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this criminal investigation techniques course on lawful, rights-respecting practice.

Course Objectives:

- Apply the investigation process stages and an investigative mindset to new reports, setting early priorities and fast-track actions
- Build an investigation plan and lines of enquiry register with the 5WH method, testing hypotheses that point towards and away from a suspect
- Conduct witness and victim interviews using cognitive interview techniques and support measures for vulnerable people
- Plan and conduct non-coercive suspect interviews with the PEACE model, including a staged disclosure strategy
- Assess evidence for relevance, admissibility and weight and manage forensic and digital submissions at investigator level
- Assemble a case investigation file with decision logs and disclosure schedules ready for prosecutor review

Target Audience:

- Investigators responsible for handling criminal reports from first response to case file
 - Enquiry officers who interview witnesses, victims and suspects in volume and serious crime
 - Prosecution support staff who review files, schedules and evidence before charging decisions
 - Regulatory investigators responsible for enforcement cases that may lead to criminal prosecution
 - Case officers who maintain decision logs, action records and disclosure schedules
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Course Outline:

Day 1: Criminal Investigation Process, Investigative Mindset and Case Baseline

- Investigation Process Stages from Instigation to Criminal Justice Outcome
- Investigative Mindset Principles of Professional Curiosity and Impartiality
- Means, Motive and Opportunity Framing for Suspect Identification
- Golden Hour Initial Response and Fast-Track Investigative Actions
- Unit Investigation Quality Baseline Using a Case Review Checklist

Day 2: Investigation Planning, Lines of Enquiry and Interviewing Models

- 5WH Method for Identifying Information Gaps and Hypotheses
- Investigation Plan Template with Objectives, Priorities and Resources
- Lines of Enquiry Register Pointing Towards and Away from Suspects
- PEACE Interviewing Model Stages from Preparation to Evaluation
- Cognitive Interview Retrieval Techniques for Witness Memory

Day 3: Witness, Victim and Suspect Interviews and Evidence Assessment

- Interview Plan and Topic Map for Witness and Victim Accounts
- Vulnerable Victim and Witness Support Measures and Intermediary Use
- Suspect Interview Disclosure Strategy and Account Clarification and Challenge
- Evidence Types Matrix of Testimonial, Documentary, Real and Hearsay
- Admissibility, Relevance and Weight Tests for Prosecution Evidence

Day 4: Forensic Inputs, Decision Logs, Bias and Major Investigations

- Forensic and Digital Evidence Submissions Managed at Investigator Level
- Investigative Decision Log Entries Recording Rationale and Alternatives
- Confirmation Bias, Tunnel Vision and Miscarriage of Justice Reviews
- Major Investigation Room Roles, Action Allocation and Briefing Cycle
- Used and Unused Material Schedules for Prosecution Disclosure

Day 5: Case Study Investigation and Case Investigation File Capstone

- Case Study Briefing and Initial Investigation Plan Drafting
 - PEACE Suspect Interview Role-Play with Observer Feedback
 - Lines of Enquiry Review and Decision Log Peer Audit
 - Evidential Case File Assembly with Summary and Exhibits Schedule
 - Case Investigation File Completion and Prosecutor Readiness Review
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Skills You Will Gain:

- Investigation Planning
- Lines of Enquiry Management
- Witness and Victim Interviewing
- Suspect Interviewing
- Evidence Admissibility Assessment
- Decision Log Recording
- Cognitive Bias Mitigation
- Case File Preparation

Why Attend This Course:

- Produce a case investigation file for the supervising officer and the prosecutor, built on a case study and checked by peers
- Decide which lines of enquiry to open, prioritise or close, and record the reason in a decision log
- Avoid failed prosecutions and appeals caused by unrecorded decisions, coercive interviews or incomplete disclosure
- Share the interview plans, enquiry register and file templates with colleagues in the investigation team

Conclusion:

Back at work, the participant hands the case investigation file to the supervising officer and the prosecuting lawyer, who use it to decide whether the evidence supports a charge and which further enquiries are needed. Investigation teams can reuse the plan template, lines of enquiry register and decision log format on new cases, giving supervisors a consistent record to review. After the first file is submitted, the unit should compare prosecutor feedback with the decision log and refine the templates where gaps in enquiries, interviews or disclosure were found.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What do participants need before the criminal investigation techniques course?

Participants should already take part in criminal or regulatory investigations, for example taking statements, conducting interviews or preparing files. No prior training in a specific interviewing model is needed. Anonymised examples of their own case paperwork help them apply the templates during the week.

How does the criminal investigation techniques course differ from a crime scene management course?

It covers the whole investigation from planning to case file, with most time on interviews, lines of enquiry, decision logs and disclosure. Scene examination, intelligence analysis and digital forensics appear only at overview level, as inputs the investigator manages.

Why do criminal investigation techniques favour non-coercive interviewing?

Non-coercive interviewing gathers more reliable information and produces accounts that withstand challenge in court. Models such as PEACE focus on obtaining and testing an account rather than seeking a confession, which lowers the risk of false admissions and miscarriages of justice.

What do participants take back from the criminal investigation techniques course?

Participants return with a case investigation file built on a case study, including an investigation plan, lines of enquiry register, interview plans, decision log entries and disclosure schedules, together with templates their unit can reuse on live cases.