



Lesson 3.5 Evidence Collection, Handling and Storage

Lesson 3.5 Content

- Types of evidence
- Collecting evidence
- Handling evidence
- Storing evidence

Lesson 3.5 Learning Outcomes

- List the types of evidence
- Explain how to collect evidence
- Explain how to handle evidence
- Explain how to store evidence

Types of Evidence

- Documentary evidence
- Electronic evidence
- Physical evidence
- Forensic evidence
- Testimonial evidence

Documentary Evidence

- Begin collecting documentary evidence as soon as possible
- Use documentary evidence to help guide the investigation, particularly for interviews
- May include:
 - Official documents
 - Official logbooks
 - Maps
 - Medical records
 - Diaries, journals and other forms of individual records

Locating Documentary Evidence

- Offices, storage rooms, warehouses, vehicles
- Cabinets, shelves, desks, file boxes
- Recycling and rubbish/trash bins
- Archives and official files
- Electronically

Electronic Evidence

- Electronic information or data stored on electronic devices or available in the cyber domain
- Email or networked communications
- Text or peer-to-peer messages
- Metadata from mobile telephones or electronic documents
- Posts on social media
- Audio and video recorded testimony or narratives

Locating Electronic Evidence

- Computer and laptop hard drives
- Telephones (land and mobile)
- External storage devices – computer disks, flash drives, MP3 players, digital cameras
- Servers, firewall terminals, LAN
- Photocopier hard drives
- Security systems recordings (entry/exit points, surveillance)

Physical Evidence

- Physical material such as clothing, including uniforms or parts of uniforms and clothes, jewellery, bedding, towels, condoms, rope/tape, firearms, knives, torture devices
- Electronic hardware items such as mobile telephones, computers and other communication equipment (information contained within them is electronic evidence)
- Physical injuries such as bruising, burns, cuts, scars, internal or external injuries. Tears or fistulas, especially on genitals or close to them are typical signs of sexual violence

Forensic Evidence

- Biological/forensic material such as skin, hair, fingernail scrapings, bone, teeth, semen, saliva, blood, vomit, mucus, sweat, vaginal fluids and faecal matter
- DNA samples may be taken during NIO investigations to determine paternity
- Generally, fingerprints are not taken during NIO investigations
- Generally, trace material, for example fibre, unknown substances or hair is not taken during NIO investigations

Testimonial Evidence

- Obtained through interviewing victim(s), witnesses and the subject of the complaint
- Potential witnesses should be identified in the investigations plan
- Testimonial evidence is often recorded electronically or documented
- Interviewing will be covered in detail in Module 4

Reviewing Evidence

- Be systematic – devise a process for analysing the probative and relative value of evidence
- Be suspicious – be alert to inconsistencies and references to other pieces of evidence
- Be impartial – review evidence with an open mind as to its significance
- Be analytical – the purpose of reviewing evidence to determine if it proves or disproves an allegation



Collecting Evidence

Collecting Evidence

- Collecting evidence via gathering and studying background material
- Collecting evidence as a result of a search
- Collecting evidence via interviewing
- Receiving evidence handed over from another

Authentication of Evidence

- What evidence did you receive?
- When and where was the evidence produced?
- Who produced the evidence?
- Who collected the evidence?
- If receiving evidence from another:
 - What is the name of this other person?
 - When and how did they come into possession of it?
 - What official position did the person hold at the time, if any?
 - What motivated the person to handover the evidence?



Handling Evidence

Handling Evidence

- Log all evidence obtained, including:
 - A description of the evidence and a reference number
 - When, where and by whom the object was collected or provided
 - A short summary of the content of the evidence
 - Photographs (as appropriate)
 - The location of the original
 - The chain of custody of the original
- Make backups to prevent possible loss or deterioration (as appropriate)

Chain of Custody

- Chain of custody is the paper trail to preserve the integrity of the evidence
- Precise description of an item collected and a detailed record of activities in relation to that item
- A complete chain of custody should record:
 - The whereabouts of the piece of evidence from the moment it is received
 - All persons who have handled the evidence
 - The purpose for which the evidence was handled



Storing Evidence

Storing Evidence

- Store evidence in a secure and safe location
- Package appropriately
- Employ a systematic and reliable labelling procedure
- Appoint a responsible person to manage evidence storage
- Institute a logbook to record who enters the storage area and for what purpose
- Ensure that any handling of evidence after storage is properly recorded and kept to a minimum as possible

Lesson Takeaway

- Evidence types:
 - Documentary evidence
 - Electronic evidence
 - Physical evidence
 - Forensic evidence
 - Testimonial evidence
- Appropriate collection, handling and storage of evidence preserves the integrity of evidence



Questions?



TTX

Scenario

Maggie is an 18-year-old student. She receives a Facebook friend request from an unknown man. Maggie finds the man attractive and accepts the request. The man tells Maggie that he is Sam from Astoria, he is 26 years old and deployed with the Astorian military contingent behind the airport. After some days, Sam and Maggie exchange numbers and start communicating on WhatsApp. Eventually, Sam steers their conversation to sex, and even sends Maggie a photo of his penis. He asks Maggie to, in return, send him a naked photo of her. Maggie refuses to do so. Sam then asks if he can meet Maggie in person and is willing to help her a lot if she would have sex with him. Maggie does not like where the conversation is going and tells Sam that she is not interested. Sam persists, but when Maggie keeps saying no, Sam asks Maggie if she can find him another girl to have sex. He is willing to pay USD \$100. Maggie then blocks Sam on Facebook and WhatsApp. She later learns that Sam has contacted two other girls at her school.

Discussion Points

- As your contingents NIO you have been assigned to investigate this incident
- Based on the information in the scenario:
 - Identify the SEA related misconduct
 - Identify the key elements to address during your investigation
 - Identify the lines of enquiry and sources of evidence
 - Identify specific challenges you may encounter during your investigation
 - Identify any other forms of possible misconduct