



# *San Diego Community College District Police Department Policy and Procedures*

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6.03 FIELD INTERVIEW REPORT

EFF. 10/01/19

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## **I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the use and processing of Field Interview (FI) Reports.

## **II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department.

## **III. BACKGROUND**

Court decisions have held that police officers, under certain circumstances, may contact or stop citizens to conduct an inquiry. Many inquiries reveal that an individual may be involved in some type of criminal activity. It is then important for the Department, and all concerned police personnel, to have a record of the contact available on file. See Department Procedure 4.01, Stop/Detention and Pat-Down Procedures for further details.

Just as for any private citizen, a legal cause is not needed for an officer to initiate a “contact” and officers may lawfully ask for information needed to fill out a Field Interview Report (ARJIS-1). However, the persons contacted may not be halted, detained, or patted-down against their will. They may not be required to answer questions, provide identification, or to cooperate in any way if they do not wish to do so voluntarily (*Gomez v. Turner*, 672 F.2d 134 (1982)). If they refuse to cooperate, they must be permitted to go on their way, unless the officer has developed reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest.

If the officer has reasonable suspicion to detain a person, the officer may require the detained individual to identify himself /herself, and to provide identification. *People v. Loudermilk*, 195 Cal. App. 3d 996, 1002-3 (1987); *People v. Vibanco*, 151 Cal. App. 4th 1, 10 (2007). However, a suspect’s refusal to identify himself/herself or provide identification does not justify a detention and search based solely on that basis. *Loudermilk* at 1004; *People v. Garcia*, 145 Cal.App.4th 782, 787-88 (2006).



**IV. DEFINITION**

A Field Interview (FI) is any contact or stop in which an officer reasonably suspects that a person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime. Reasonable suspicion establishes the authority to detain a person. The officer may exercise this authority in any place that the officer has the right to be. Both pedestrians and persons in vehicles may be detained for an FI. A detention is warranted if there is a reasonable suspicion by the officer that:

- A. Some activity relating to crime has taken place, is presently taking place, or is about to occur; and,
- B. The person to be stopped or detained is involved in that activity, but there is insufficient evidence to make an arrest.

A Field Interview (FI) report is used to document the contact.

**V. PROCEDURE**

- A. Enforcement action (i.e., stop, detention, pat-down) resulting in a Field Interview Report shall be documented in the comments section of the incident by the dispatcher.
- B. The FI should capture the information specifically labeled on the FI form, with the "Remarks" area used to show the reason for contact or to elaborate on the crime potential.
- C. The white copy of the FI form should not be used when taking notes during victim, witness, or suspect interviews. All information written on an FI (including everything written on the back of the white copy) is discoverable. Officers shall use a PD-145, or other suitable notepad, when taking notes. Refer to Department Procedure 4.10, (Retention of Officer's Notes).
- D. Other Field Interview Uses
  - 1. The form may also be used for an FI of a vehicle only.
  - 2. Enter vehicle information, as well as all other pertinent information.