

Making a **Difference** Canada

Communities Giving Voice to Sexual Assault Victims

FAIRNESS. OBJECTIVITY. DUE DILIGENCE.

This is what survivors of sexual assault should be met with.

MakingaDifferenceCanada.ca

Cognitive Behavioral Veracity Assessment

Analysis Point	Notes	NDI	DI
Hand Gestures	<p>Truthful subjects will use as much as 1/3 more hand gestures than someone creating a story</p> <p>Proficient liars will insert truthful events into their lies and will display hand gestures</p>	Appropriate	Not
Corrections	<p>Someone accessing memory will correct themselves</p> <p>Someone creating a story will tend not to correct themselves as they feel it will make them look deceptive</p>	Present	Absent
Other Senses	<p>Reference to taste, touch and smell is indicative of recalling an event from memory</p> <p>i.e. "I could feel the bristles on his beard"/ "I could smell whiskey on his breath"</p>	Present	Absent
Directional Head Nods	<p>A subject recalling memory may indicate direction by moving their head as much as 1/3 more often than a deceptive subject. May be very subtle or overt.</p>	Present	Absent
True Emotion	<p>Observed just prior to the time the incident is being recalled</p> <p>During the retelling the subject cys as he re-tells the traumatic part. The subject will often say they were scared at the conclusion of re-telling the event</p> <p>Tears, mucous and change/disruption in breathing pattern (Caveat: the subject may not display true emotion if they are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)</p>	Present	Absent
Thoughts / Feelings	<p>Truthful subjects will express what was going on in their mind at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Liars create their story in a vacuum and there are no feelings or thoughts of what went on in their mind at the time of the event</p>	Present	Absent
Main Issue	<p>At least 50% of a truthful subjects statement will be of the incident</p> <p>Deceptive subjects avoid the topic under discussion</p>	Adequate	Not
Noun Choice	<p>Deceptive subjects tend to leave out the nouns, absence of first person "I"</p> <p>"we" – important in that it indicates closeness, but not an absolute</p> <p>Watch for changes in the way the person refers to others in the story</p>	Appropriate	Not
Voice Pitch Changes	<p>Higher pitch present when experiencing fear and anger. Softer pitch may reflect lie or uncertainty.</p>	Present	Absent
Verbatim Comments	<p>Statements made by victim and/or suspect during event is indicative of truthfulness</p>	Present	Absent
Unbelievable Line	<p>A single line that appears to be an exaggeration or embellishment on the part of the subject in relation to the event</p> <p>"The gun was the size of a bazooka"</p>	Present	Absent
Outside Connections	<p>Truthful will draw connections with events that have no apparent connection.</p> <p>"As the robber ran away I saw a woman across the street fall down."</p>	Present	Absent
Past Tense	<p>Memory for a specific episode is recalled from past tense</p>	Present	Absent
Open Body Language	<p>Truthful subjects more likely to avoid covering mouth when speaking, absence of runners stance, frontally aligned, fluid gestures</p>	Present	Absent

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Memory Infallibility	Will not admit to having trouble remembering minor details. May lack coherence, spontaneity, appropriate detail, context related information, theme related details. Expect differences from one telling to the next	Present	Absent
Reporting what didn't occur	"He didn't touch my breasts"	Absent	Present
Comparison to other memories	i.e. "The suspect was wearing a brown coat just like my uncle use to wear"	Present	Absent
Pauses when searching memory	Short pause – 5 seconds Long pause - greater than 5 seconds Absence of pause – possibly rehearsed	Present	Absent
Verbs	Truthful: rape, rob steal Deceptive: have sex, take Verbs should reflect the emotion of the incident	Appropriate	Not
Equivocation	"I think", "I believe", "I really can't remember Stuttering, repetitions, verbal hedges	Absent	Present
Unfinished Business	"That's about it", "I think that's all". Something may have been omitted or edited	Absent	Present
"I can't"	May represent resistance, a reason why the subject can not answer the question	Absent	Present
Hard Question	In response to a question the subject answers "that's a hard one". May represent a delay tactic	Absent	Present
Objection	Subject refuses to answer a question	Absent	Present
Verified Alibi	Truthful subjects more likely to provide details that can be verified	Present	Absent
Eye Movement (contact)	Must take cultural and gender differences into consideration	Appropriate	Not
Answer question with question	May represent a delay tactic	Absent	Present

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