

ICI SCIENCE BASED INTERVIEWING FUNDAMENTALS COURSE

"THE SCIENCE OF WHAT WORKS"

The El Dorado County District Attorney's Office is hosting the Institute of Criminal Investigation (ICI) Science Based Interviewing Fundamentals Course. We have a one-week course scheduled for November 10-14, 2025 in Sacramento, CA.

The training is derived from research done by the High Value Detainee Group (the HIG) and modified for local law enforcement.

Background: The HIG was created in 2009 by executive order in the aftermath of the enhanced interrogation scandal and is comprised of the FBI, the CIA, and the DOD. One of the HIG's primary responsibilities was determining "what works" in interviewing and interrogation using science and they commissioned over 175 peer reviewed research studies attempting to answer the question. Significant among the research was the analysis of thousands of hours of actual interviews with terrorists, murderers, and sex offenders.

To summarize, the research found that the state of interviewing training was something of a mixed bag. In other words, while intelligence and law enforcement were trained in many positive techniques, they were also being trained in techniques with little or no efficacy. At the risk of over simplifying, much of the training provided to law enforcement in the last 60 years is characterized as confession-driven, adversarial, and at times psychologically coercive. Ultimately, the HIG has developed a body of validated research on the science of interviewing and a curriculum that produces a high yield of verifiable information. This research supports a shift to a focus on rapport-based information gathering.

Lead Instructors: Wayne Thomas

For more information on content please contact Vern Pierson at vern.pierson@edcda.us

Sacramento

Host Agency:
Davis Police Department

Presenting Agency:
El Dorado County District Attorney's
Office



WSIN Training Center

1825 Bell Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95838

Registration Information:

Registration is free. Due to limited space, you must register with Melanie Torres at melanie.torres@edcda.us to reserve your spot for the training.

Recommended Hotel/Location:

- **Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento**
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, CA 95815