

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 466 (SB 38)

2018 Regular Session

Bishop

New law provides relative to eyewitness identification procedures.

Provides relative to legislative intent.

Provides the following definitions:

- (1) "Administrator" means the person conducting the live or photo lineup.
- (2) "Blind" means conducted in such a way that the administrator does not know the identity of the suspect.
- (3) "Blinded" means conducted in such a way that the administrator may know who the suspect is, but does not know which lineup member is being viewed by the eyewitness.
- (4) "Criminal justice entity" means any government agency or subunit thereof, or private agency that, through statutory authorization or a legal formal agreement with a governmental unit or agency, has the power of investigation, arrest, detention, prosecution, adjudication, treatment, supervision, rehabilitation, or release of persons suspected, charged, or convicted of a crime.
- (5) "Eyewitness" means a person who observes another person at or near the scene of an offense.
- (6) "Filler" means either a person or a photograph of a person who is not suspected of an offense but is included in an identification procedure.
- (7) "Folder shuffle method" means a procedure in which the suspect photos and nonsuspect or filler photos are each placed in separate folders for a total of six photographs, and shuffled together along with four blank folders and handed to the eyewitness one at a time so that the administrator cannot see which photograph the eyewitness is viewing.
- (8) "Live lineup" means an identification procedure in which a group of persons, including the suspected perpetrator of an offense and other persons not suspected of the offense, is displayed to an eyewitness for the purpose of determining whether the eyewitness identifies the suspect as the perpetrator.
- (9) "Photo lineup" means an identification procedure in which an array of photographs, including a photograph of the suspected perpetrator of an offense and additional photographs of other persons not suspected of the offense, is displayed to an eyewitness either in hard copy form or via computer or similar device for the purpose of determining whether the eyewitness identifies the suspect as the perpetrator.
- (10) "Suspect" means the person believed by law enforcement to be the possible perpetrator of the crime.

Provides that no later than 1/30/19, any criminal justice entity conducting eyewitness identifications must adopt the La. Sheriff's Executive Management Institute ("LSEMI") model policy on eyewitness identification procedures, or draft its own policy that minimally comports to key best practices as outlined in new law. Further provides that each criminal justice entity that administers eyewitness identification procedures must provide a copy of its written policies to the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice no later than 3/1/19.

Provides that for any criminal justice entity that elects to draft its own policy on eyewitness identification procedures, these policies must:

- (1) Be based on all of the following:

- (a) Credible field, academic, or laboratory research on eyewitness memory.
 - (b) Relevant policies, guidelines, and best practices designed to reduce erroneous eyewitness identifications and to enhance the reliability and objectivity of eyewitness identifications.
 - (c) Other relevant information as appropriate.
- (2) Include the following information regarding evidence-based practices:
- (a) Procedures for selecting photograph and live lineup filler photographs or participants to ensure that the photographs or participants are consistent in appearance with the description of the alleged perpetrator and do not make the suspect noticeably stand out.
 - (b) Instructions given to a witness before conducting a photograph or live lineup identification procedure must include a statement that the person who committed the offense may or may not be present in the procedure.
 - (c) Procedures for documenting and preserving the results of a photograph or live lineup identification procedure, including the documentation of witness statements, regardless of the outcome of the procedure.
 - (d) Procedures for administering a photograph or live lineup identification procedure to an illiterate person or a person with limited English language proficiency.
 - (e) For a live lineup identification procedure, if practicable, procedures for assigning an administrator who is unaware of which member of the live lineup is the suspect in the case or alternative procedures designed to prevent opportunities to influence the witness.
 - (f) For a photograph identification procedure, procedures for assigning an administrator who is capable of administering a photograph array in a blind manner or in a blinded manner consistent with other proven or supported best practices designed to prevent opportunities to influence the witness.
 - (g) Any other procedures or best practices supported by credible research or commonly accepted as a means to reduce erroneous eyewitness identifications and to enhance the objectivity and reliability of eyewitness identifications.
- (3) Provide that a witness who makes an identification based on a photograph or live lineup identification procedure be asked immediately after the procedure to state, in the witness's own words, how confident the witness is in making the identification. A law enforcement agency is to document any statement made in accordance with proposed law.

Provides that by December 31st of each odd-numbered year, the institute is to review the model policy and training materials adopted under new law and modify the policy and materials as appropriate while maintaining the requirements outlined in new law.

Provides that by September first of each even-numbered year, each law enforcement agency is to review its policy adopted under new law and modify that policy as appropriate while maintaining the requirements outlined in new law.

Provides that failure to conduct a photograph or live lineup identification procedure in substantial compliance with the model policy or any other policy adopted under new law does not bar the admission of eyewitness identification testimony.

Provides that a video record of identification procedures is to be made or, if a video record is not practicable, an audio record is to be made. Further provides that if neither a video nor audio record are practicable, the reasons must be documented in writing, and the lineup administrator is to make a full and complete written record of the lineup.

Provides that the written eyewitness identification procedures of a criminal justice entity must be made available, in writing, to the public upon request.

Provides that evidence of failure to comply with any of the provisions of new law:

- (1) May be considered by the district court in adjudicating motions to suppress an eyewitness identification.
- (2) May be admissible in support of any claim of eyewitness misidentification, as long as the evidence is otherwise admissible.

Provides relative to legislative intent.

Effective upon signature of the governor (May 23, 2018).

(Adds C.Cr.P. Art. 251-253)