

# Obtaining Witness Statements in Criminal Investigations Course

## COURSE INFORMATION:

Those involved in criminal investigations will at some stage be required to obtain or provide witness statements as part of their investigations. These witness statements need to be of a high enough quality to be able to be used to:

- Interview suspects and allow them to challenge any witness evidence and give their version of events.
- Allow the prosecutor to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the case.
- Allow the prosecution file to be built.
- Allow the defence to be able to provide the best advice to their client.
- Allow the court to hear the evidence of witnesses either through read statements or witness testimony.



This CPD accredited course has been designed for officers involved in the investigation and enforcement of criminal investigations. The course will cover witnesses, how to question witnesses appropriately, the information that needs to be covered in a witness statement and how to complete a witness statement.

This course is a one-day course which can be delivered both virtually and in person.

## AUDIENCE

This course has been designed for officers across England and Wales, who are involved in the investigation and enforcement of criminal offences. The course is suitable for those who are new to investigating up to an intermediate level.

Officers need to be able to demonstrate that they can accurately question witness and complete witness statements to a high standard. These witness statements will be used by lawyers and the court to make decisions as to whether to prosecute an offence, and if so, help build the case to demonstrate that the suspect is either guilty or not guilty of the offence.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand what a witness statement is.
- Understand who should provide witness statements.
- Understand how to obtain a witness statement.
- Understand how to deal with the identification of suspects by a witness.
- Understand the different categories of witnesses.
- Understand when is appropriate to release a copy of a witness statement.
- Understand witness interference and intimidation.
- Understand how to question a witness.
- Understand how to structure a good quality witness statement using the 5-part model.
- Understand ADVOKATE.
- Understand the difference between a victim personal statement and an impact statement for business and when to use them.