

Appendix I – Criminal Investigations

- “A Criminal Investigator (CI) will become involved upon notification by police officer, when the officer determines that a person has gone missing under suspicious circumstances.”
 - Police have discretion to call for a criminal investigator, depending on if there are suspicious circumstances, such as a fight in the home
 - Criminal investigators don't usually get involved from the beginning unless there are suspicious circumstances
 - For example, if someone with dementia goes missing the fire department may be contacted, but not CI since it is not necessarily a suspicious circumstance
 - May be able to access phones, if possible, provide the phone number for the missing person and the carrier of the phone. There are some issues with Cellular One
 - Pinging cell phones can be helpful, but because there are few towers on the reservation it will only give general directions
- “The CI will focus on investigating the suspicious circumstances so the reporting person, residents, and community volunteers should expect to be interviewed by the CI. The interviews may take several hours depending on the number and availability of individuals to be interviewed. Individuals being interviewed should always tell the truth and tell the whole story. Deceptions and withholding information will only prolong the investigation process. Time is critical under these circumstances so community members should give their fullest cooperation in the investigation process.”
 - Add section to the toolkit to compile notes- Encourage family to be open, honest and write everything down! Families may not remember everything in the moment due to trauma response but writing things down can help to keep consistent and get the whole story
 - Best practice is to be honest, even if the questions are uncomfortable or embarrassing
 - Just want to understand the situation, not to make the families uncomfortable. Questions will likely be straightforward, but the ultimate goal is to find the missing person
 - Will a victim advocate be present? Law enforcement may provide a victim advocate in subsequent interviews if needed. Family or friends may be able to come with the family member to the interview, but it is up to discretion- usually allowed though
- “Community volunteers should also go into these operations with the understanding that there is a potential to be called as a witness and provide testimony as to their involvement in a court of law and that everything they generate in the process are subject to be used in a court of law (e.g., contact log, communication log, etc.) and the inscriptions should be as legible as possible.”
 - Add to communication log!!!
 - Ensure the families understand that they may need to use their notes and such in court, to make sure everything is factual, accurate, and legible
 - Volunteer communication log
 - Can victims record their own testimony? Usually not, but the officer will record the interview