

Interrogation Ethics & Pressure Tactics

Navigating the razor's edge between strategic questioning and legal coercion (KA-MOD-014).

Foundational Ethical Principles



Legality

All tactics must strictly adhere to constitutional rights (e.g., Miranda) and established legal precedents.



Voluntariness

Any statements or admissions must be a product of free will, not fear, duress, or psychological manipulation.



Fairness

Avoid exploitation of vulnerabilities (e.g., age, mental capacity, language barriers). Ensure a level playing field.

Red Flag: Tactics Approaching Coercion



False Promises

Offering leniency or specific benefits that cannot be delivered or are outside authority.



Threats & Intimidation

Implying harm to the suspect or their family, or threatening harsher penalties if they don't cooperate.



Excessive Duration/Fatigue

Interrogations prolonged to the point of mental or physical exhaustion, eroding free will.



Fabricated Evidence

Presenting fake documents or lying about non-existent evidence to induce a confession.

While some deception is permissible in interrogation, these tactics are generally considered beyond the pale and can lead to inadmissible confessions and false convictions.

Ethical Interrogation Framework

Information-Gathering

- Focus:** Elicit reliable information, not just a confession.
- Open Questions:** Encourage detailed, non-leading responses.
- Active Listening:** Understand the subject's perspective and narrative.

Evidence-Based Questioning

- Strategic Disclosure:** Introduce evidence incrementally.
- Challenge Inconsistencies:** Confront contradictions with facts.
- Avoid Speculation:** Stick to known facts and observable behaviors.