

# CRIMINOLOGY

Enumerate and explain the key principles that guide effective criminal investigation. How do these principles contribute to the success of investigation?

## Introduction:

Criminal investigation is a process of collecting data and analysis of information to identify and prove the guilt of offender.

Criminal investigation is based upon following principles which includes, objectivity of officers, independence, professionalism and competence. Besides, record and preservation of evidence, sensitivity of circumstances and investigation report are fundamental principles. The following principles ensures success of investigation by preventing wrongful assumptions, external pressure, set high level standards in sensitive cases and establish the rule of law. Moreover, it helps to provide the proper prosecution of judicial decision. Therefore, the principles of criminal investigation play pivotal role in the success of investigation.

Enumerating and explaining the following principles of criminal investigation

i) Objectivity of investigating officers :

Objectivity refers to a condition of being free from biasness related to the criminal. Whenever investigator proceeds to the crime scene there are chances that crime scene and the destruction caused by crime to the society may emotionally influence the officer. Such feelings can create biased assumptions regarding offender. Therefore, the investigator must be unbiased and must rely to the logic and evidence while conducting investigation.

ii) Investigating officer should be independent :

The investigation should be free from external pressure. In many cases the investigator faces political or life threats while conducting investigation. Such pressure can demolish the integrity of investigation. To maintain reliability of investigation the department should make investigator independent.

## ii) Professionalism of investigator :

Investigator should be adhere to high level of ethical standards, maintain confidentiality and respect legal and procedural requirements. During investigation, investigator must follow procedure which includes, interviewing the offender, collection of evidence, checking background of offender and remain focus on relevant facts.

## iii) Officer should be competent :

Investigator must possess the necessary skills, knowledge and training to handle complex cases. Investigator should be well aware regarding legal aspects and possess technical skills to gather and analyze evidence. Furthermore, investigator recognize the patterns and potential leads to handle complex cases effectively.

## v) Record and preservation of evidence :

When investigator proceeds to crime scene, first of all, <sup>capture</sup> record the crime scene through photographs, record interviews witnesses and then collect all the physical and non-physical evidences. All these evidences must be documented and safeguarded to avoid any tampering.

## vi) Understanding the sensitivity of circumstances :

Investigator must be sensitive to the context of case, particularly dealing with vulnerable individuals like, victims of violence, and children. Investigator must promote ethical treatment of all parties involved to maintain the dignity of victims and witnesses.

## vii) Investigation report :

The report should be clear, concise and relevant to facts. A comprehensive report should detail the investigation process, evidence collected, finding and conclusion. The investigation report play vital role in judicial proceedings.

The principles of criminal investigation play vital role in success of investigation in following ways :

### i) Preventing the wrongful assumptions :

The objectivity of investigators ensures that decisions are based on facts, evidence,

and logic rather than personal assumptions. This prevents wrongful accusations and promotes credibility and trust in the investigative process.

ii) Independence shields the investigation:

Independence from external or internal pressure ensures that outcomes are solely based on the merits of the case. It strengthens the public trust in investigation. Moreover, it ensures decisions are made in the best interest of justice rather than appeasing powerful stakeholders.

iii) Professionalism upholds the legality:

Professionalism contributes to the success of investigation by ensuring confidentiality, transparency and respect for legal process. It prevents ethical breaches, such as coercion or misuse of authority.

iv) Competence ensures accuracy:

The competent investigator poses high standards of skills and analyzes the investigation from every possible aspect.

Competent investigator apply innovative techniques to make the investigation effective. This lead to the accurate identification and interpretation of evidence, which enhance the overall efficiency of investigation.

v) Sensitivity upholds the ethical standards.

Ethical treatment with victims, suspects and witnesses specially in sensitive cases like domestic violence or sexual assault, encourages cooperation from victims and witnesses. The ethical behaviour helps the success of investigation to gain maximum knowledge of circumstance and lead to right direction.

vi) Evidence and investigation report prevails justice :

The preservation of evidences helps the prosecution to argue in the Court on strong basis. The proper investigation report helps the judiciary to understand the sensitivity of case, damage to society and victim. Which eventually led to the

accountability of offenders. The success of investigation relied upon evidence and report because both prevail justice and the success of investigation.

Conclusion