
Latest Trends, Tips and Opinion

1 message

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Impediment or Stepping Stone?

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW?

Interruptions of Life

As we enjoyed egg casserole, muffins and fellowship during the monthly Men's breakfast, at my church, the pastor was unexpectedly called out of our breakfast to attend to the needs of a family who requested his assistance in calming the fears of their dying mother/grandmother. Nothing they were saying seemed to calm her fears as she dealt with the imminent passing to a better life, better but still unknown.

As the Pastor took leave, I felt for him, thinking to myself how difficult it must be for his schedule and plans to be regularly interrupted by the crisis that befall each of us at one time or another.

But as a Pastor, he must deal with them collectively, with the healing touch with which God has blessed him. But often at times that play havoc with his life's schedule.

But on my drive home, after our Men's group discussion and closing prayers had ended, I thought of his sudden departure in another way. Maybe it was the long ride south on US 27, or the silence of an early Saturday morning, whatever it was I thought differently about those interruptions.

I thought of the wonderful blessing it must be to have been given a gift that someone in their final hours could be comforted by his words. And I thought of how proud he must feel, and how proud God must be of him.

The next day I mentioned these thoughts to the Pastor, and his response was that he is “**but an instrument of the Lord**”, and that he has been blessed to offer words and guidance to each of us in our times of need, whenever they occur.

And then I thought of each of you who read the ICJE News each month. Most of you are involved in the criminal justice system in some manner, public or private, or you are involved with your church security, and each with gifts that God has blessed you.

Your lives are full of interruptions, and God has blessed each of us with many gifts, and with many trials in our lives. When you encounter boulders in your life's path, do you see them as impediments or as steppingstones?

Each interruption is a boulder in our path and you never know which one will bless you with both His Grace and His Love, He leaves it up to us to choose whether that boulder is an impediment or a steppingstone.

May God bless you.

Jim Rechel
ICJE Newsletter Editor
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Please feel free to email comments or suggestions. Thanks, Jim



Is the FBI Broken?

The Durham Report just dropped as I put the finishing touches on the ICJE Newsletter, and I have only read the first 100 pages and excerpts, but it appears to find issues that many suspected over the last few years.

The FBI leadership has lost the **trust** of the American people (on both sides of the political spectrum). I think the following quote by an unknown author captures the predicament the FBI now finds itself:

“Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair.”

Trust is fragile but is the one ingredient required for people, and organizations, to function.

How will they repair trust? Only time will tell.

The Durham Report : pdf

Confession Confusion

Years ago, I sat in the Selma City Jail interviewing a murder suspect. I had very little information about the actual crime, as it had occurred in Apopka, Florida months before the suspect fled to Alabama. Ultimately, I was able to secure a signed confession, and I didn't hear anything for a few years.

I was then subpoenaed to testify at a deposition as the defense counsel sought to get the confession suppressed. I was deposed for more than 6 hours as the defendant's counsel sought to attack every action I took in securing the written confession. They were unsuccessful, he was convicted, and I had a certain level of animus toward the defense counsel for their attempts to get a murderer off on "some technicality".

Like many of you, I have secured hundreds of signed confessions in my career, but until recently never looked at the process I used as ever being coercive. My mantra was always, to quote LTJG Kaffee in A Few Good Men "I just want the truth!"

The recent murder trial of Mason Sisk in Huntsville resurrected the issue of confessions, as the defense attempted to have the then 14-year old's confession thrown out.

In addition, the Innocence Project and DNA advances caught my attention, as well as some true crime Podcasts that I listen to while on long trips. The Innocence Project has published data indicating that false confessions were present in 24% of 289 cases overturned by DNA testing. In other words, in about 70 cases someone confessed to a crime they did not commit.

Why would someone confess to something they didn't do? For those interested in studying the topic at a deeper level there are tremendous resources available, but it is important to understand the three most common false confession scenarios:

VOLUNTARY, PERSUADED, COMPLIANT

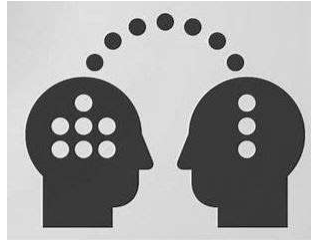


Voluntary false confessions are explained by the internal psychological states or needs of the confessor or by external pressure brought to bear on the confessor by someone other than the police or someone in authority.

Voluntary false confessions are frequently attributed to underlying psychological or psychiatric disorders.

For example, individuals may feel compelled to falsely confess out of a desire for attention, because they desire to punish themselves, or because they are genuinely out of touch with reality.

However, voluntary false confessions may also arise from completely rational motives: for example, out of a desire to protect the true perpetrator.



Persuaded (or internalized) false confessions occur when interrogation tactics cause an innocent suspect to doubt his memory and he genuinely becomes persuaded — whether temporarily or permanently— that it is more likely than not that he committed the crime, despite having no memory of committing it.

This raises the question:

How can an interrogator possibly convince an innocent person that he or she is guilty?

Wouldn't the suspect know whether or not he or she committed the crime?



Compliant false confessions are given to escape a stressful situation, avoid punishment, or gain a promised or implied reward.

The most notable thing about a compliant false confession is that it is made knowingly: the suspect admits guilt with the knowledge that he is innocent and that what he says is false.

Compliant false confessions may be obtained through physical pressure (for example, torture) but can also be elicited through psychological pressure.

For example, a police interrogator may try to convince a suspect that he will inevitably be found guilty in court if he does not confess.

More on False Confessions from Psychology Today

Inside Interrogation: The Lie, The Bluff, and False Confessions

False Confessions: The Issues to Be Considered - John E. Reid & Associates

Bear Brook Podcast Season 2:

Who Obtained the Confession?



The second season of an interesting podcast called ***Bear Brook Season 2*** is about Jason Carroll, who is serving life in prison for the 1988 murder of a pregnant woman named Sharon Johnson – a murder Carroll says he didn't commit.

The only evidence against him? His own taped confession.

More than 30 years later, Carroll has a new group of lawyers and advocates – including Chaudry – who are telling a new story about what happened in an effort to clear his name.

Bear Brook Season 2 documents how that new story is impacting Carroll's case in surprising ways.

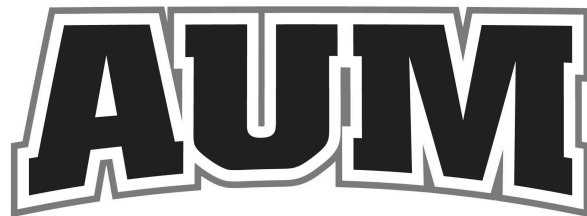
All eight episodes of *Bear Brook Season 2: A True Crime Story* are available through your favorite podcast player.



Criminal Interrogation Tactics for the Narcissist

Should offenders' personalities factor into the interrogation? Absolutely. We are not making a clinical diagnosis of narcissism but rather discussing options to interrogate the criminal who has exaggerated self-worth, is self-centered, possesses little concern for others, and expects special treatment or admiration. You don't necessarily need to be a psychologist to recognize this individual.

[Read More](#)



**CONTINUING EDUCATION &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Officer Safety/Survival - Surviving in your Workplace

June 8, 2023

**9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Birmingham Police Academy
401 6th Avenue South**

Birmingham, Alabama, 35205

In the United States law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured every day. Officer safety and retention is a critical issue for most departments and requests for prevention training has increased in the past five years.

Description: This course examines information on how and why officers are attacked and/or killed. It is based on three FBI studies, reflected in the publications, "Killed in the Line of Duty" (1992), "In the Line of Fire" (1997), and "Violent Encounters" (2006). The course is designed for law enforcement officers to look at their own habits and others that might affect their safety. Topics discussed are training, social media and law enforcement, on and off duty actions, officer safety issues, officer wellness and PTSD.

Instructor: Chief Bobby Blankenship (retired)

[Read More](#)



Training Dates on ICJE Website - Click "Training Information" below:

[Training Information](#)

Thought of the Month

Anyone who stops learning is old — whether this happens at twenty or at eighty. Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young but becomes constantly more valuable — regardless of physical capacity.

- Henry Ford

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