



Standard Guide for Ethical Requirements for Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD) Examiners¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 2065; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 The purpose of this guide is to establish ethical requirements for all individuals engaged in forensic psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD).

1.2 All individuals engaged in the practice of conducting PDD examinations shall adhere to this guide.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 1954 Practice for Conduct of Research in Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (Polygraph)²

E 2000 Guide for Minimum Basic Education and Training of Individuals Involved in the Detection of Deception PDD²

E 2035 Terminology Relating to Forensic Psychophysiology²

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms see Terminology E 2035.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to circumvent or attempt to circumvent, violate, or attempt to violate any of the following.

4.1.1 (Standard #), and

4.1.2 Any legislative act which regulates or governs the use of PDD.

4.2 When restricted, PDD examiners employed in public law enforcement shall not engage in private PDD testing for criminal defense attorneys or post-conviction/clinical sex offender treatment providers. The PDD examiners who conduct examinations in both a law enforcement and private capacity shall strive to avoid situations in which a conflict of interest may exist.

4.3 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to release any unauthorized information except when required.

4.4 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner or

their employee or associate, with the PDD examiner's knowledge, to engage in any type of advertising which would be considered false, deceptive, or misleading.

4.5 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to falsify or omit pertinent detail from any written report or record.

4.6 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to cause to alter any tracing(s) during a PDD examination to influence the outcome of that examination.

4.7 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to administer a PDD examination if it is determined that the examinee is not physically or mentally suitable for the examination.

4.8 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to solicit or accept fees, gratuities, or gifts which are intended to influence the examiner's opinion.

4.8.1 Fees shall not be contingent on the results of the examination.

4.9 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to form an opinion influenced by anything other than the PDD examination.

4.9.1 No other credibility assessment method shall be included in the PDD report.

4.10 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to include in any examination questions that are intended to inquire into or develop information on activities, affiliations, or beliefs in religion, politics, or race, except where relevant.

4.11 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner who is also a mental health counselor, marriage counselor, and/or sex offender treatment provider to conduct a PDD examination on any person who they are also actively counseling.

4.12 It shall be considered unethical for a PDD examiner to portray themselves as having a particular educational degree unless it was received from an institution recognized by a regional or governmental approving or accrediting entity to grant this degree.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The development of a canon of ethics signifies the maturity in a specialized field of endeavor, that the practitioners recognize their collective responsibility to the individual and to the public welfare. The ethical standards set forth in this

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E52 on Forensic Psychophysiology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E52.07 on Ethics in Administration of PDD Tests.

Current edition approved June 10, 2002. Published September 2002. Originally published as E 2065-00. Last previous edition E 2065-00.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02

guide hold all PDD examiners to a code of practice that elevates the profession above personal interests, for the benefit of justice and society. Because licensing requirements of PDD examiners vary from state to state, the establishment of ethical practices is imperative.

chophysiology; governmental approving entity; licensing; marriage counselor; mental health counselor; PDD examiners; quantitative analysis; regional accrediting entity; sex offender treatment provider

6. Keywords

6.1 academic degree; counseling; ethics; fees; forensic psy-

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