



Texas DPS Criminal Investigations Division  
 Polygraph Unit  
**TACTICAL POLYGRAPH**

***What is a Tactical Polygraph?***

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A tactical polygraph is a polygraph examination administered as soon as possible after the point of first contact with a suspect in order to gather immediately-actionable information. In the context of child exploitation cases, a tactical polygraph is intended to assist with conducting a more complete and truthful interview regarding the facts of the offense under investigation and the individual’s history of offenses against children. However, the true target of a tactical polygraph is not the initial offense—such as possession/distribution of child pornography, solicitation of a minor, failure to comply with sex offender registry, or human trafficking—but rather other crimes against children that are known only to the suspect and his or her victims. As a result, the tactical polygraph can be thought of as a “screening” examination used to uncover other undisclosed criminal acts involving the sexual abuse of children.

***Benefits of the Tactical Polygraph***

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There are many possible benefits of utilizing the tactical polygraph, including:

- Identification of additional suspects;
- Identification of unknown victims;
- Discovery of evidence;
- Video confession of offense(s);
- Additional charges against suspect;
- Increased likelihood that prosecutor will take case;
- Increased likelihood that suspect will take plea;
- Enhancement of sentencing;
- Rescue of child-victim from further abuse; and/or
- Prevention of other children from being victimized.

***Statistical Results***

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Since the Department’s implementation of the tactical polygraph in cases involving child pornography, solicitation of a minor, and human trafficking, 83% of arrested suspects have consented to take the tactical polygraph, 55% of whom admitted to committing previously-undisclosed “hands-on” sex crimes against children and 18% admitted to abusing more than one child.

***Contact***

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For more information regarding the tactical polygraph and how the DPS Polygraph Unit can assist in your investigations, contact:

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