

## Cambridge Police Department Officer's Field Card for Show-up Identifications

### Guidelines for an Effective Show-up:

A show-up should be conducted shortly after the commission of the crime or the witness' observation of the suspect. A person should only be detained when the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the person could be a suspect.

Barring special circumstances, the witness should be transported to the suspect's location. When transporting a witness to a show-up, attempt to prevent the witness from hearing radio transmissions or other officer-to-officer conversations related to the suspect or the investigation.

A suspect should only be viewed by one witness at a time out of the presence and hearing of other witnesses. Talking among witnesses should not be allowed.

Minimize suggestiveness. Unless necessary for the safety of officers or others, show-ups should not be conducted if the suspect is seated in the rear of a police cruiser, in a cell, or in any other enclosure associated with custody. If the suspect is handcuffed, he should be turned so that the handcuffs are not visible to the witness.

Do not tell the witness where the suspect was found, whether the suspect said anything or did anything suspicious, or whether the suspect was found with items potentially related to the crime.

Once a witness has positively identified the suspect at a show-up, do not conduct additional show-ups with the same suspect.

If the witness fails to make an identification, or is not sure of an identification, and probable cause to arrest cannot be immediately developed, the person must be permitted to leave.

### Instructions to be read aloud to the witness:

1. You are going to be asked to view some people (even if only one person is shown).
2. The person you saw may or may not be among the people you are about to view.
3. It is just as important to clear innocent persons from suspicion as it is to identify the guilty.
4. Regardless of whether you identify someone, we will continue to investigate the incident.
5. If you identify someone, I will ask you to state, in your own words, how certain you are.
6. If you do select someone, please do not ask us questions about the person you have selected, because we cannot share that information with you at this time.
7. Regardless of whether you select a person, please do not discuss the procedure with any other witnesses in the case or the media.
8. Do you have any questions before we begin?

### If an identification is made, ask:

“Without using a numerical scale, how certain are you?”

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