

ABSTRACT

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Title: LYING BY OMISSION: INFORMATION NONDISCLOSURE BY WITNESSES AND SUSPECTS

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Investigators have historically been trained that innocent suspects are essentially the same as a witness, and that signs of deception are indicative of guilt. Research and court cases have demonstrated that these assumptions are often not correct (Colwell, Memon, James-Kangal, Cole, & Wirsing, 2018). The current project will assess statements gathered from a previous research project regarding a mock theft. Witnesses, Innocent Suspects, and Thieves each engaged in a series of behaviors that could increase the suspicion of the investigative interviewer. A content analysis will compare the information omitted by each group. It is hypothesized that: 1. Suspects will omit more information than Witnesses, 2. Those pieces of information that were rated as being more suspicious will be omitted more often, 3. Those who omit information will appear more guilty than those who do not, and 4. Innocent Suspects who omit information will appear as Guilty as the Thieves. Discussion will include the relationship between omissions and the perceived suspicion associated with each piece of information.