

University center Abdelhafid Boussouf- Mila

Faculty of law & political sciences

Department of Law

Lecture one: Criminal investigation



Addressed To Master one criminal Law Students-Semester 1

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What is Criminal Investigation?

A criminal investigation refers to the process used by law enforcement agencies to examine and solve criminal cases. Investigators collect evidence, question witnesses, interrogate suspects, and analyze crime scenes to piece together the facts and uncover the truth.

2. The Purpose of Criminal Investigation

The main objectives of a criminal investigation are:

Determine if a crime has been committed (تحديد ما إذا كانت الجريمة قد ارتكبت): Investigators aim to confirm that a crime has occurred based on evidence and testimony.

Identify and apprehend the suspect(s) (تحديد واعتقال المشتبه بهم): The investigation focuses on identifying the individual(s) responsible for committing the crime.

Collect evidence for prosecution (جمع الأدلة للمقاضاة): Evidence is gathered to support the case against the defendant in court.

Ensure justice (ضمان العدالة): The ultimate goal is to ensure that justice is served by prosecuting the guilty and protecting the innocent.

3. Stages of a Criminal Investigation

A typical criminal investigation follows several stages:

Crime Discovery (اكتشاف الجريمة):

The investigation begins when a crime is discovered, reported by a victim, a witness, or through police observation. This could involve a variety of crimes, from theft to homicide.

Securing the Crime Scene (تأمين مسرح الجريمة):

Law enforcement officers secure the crime scene to preserve evidence and prevent contamination. This includes setting up a perimeter and preventing unauthorized people from entering.

Evidence Collection (جمع الأدلة):

Investigators collect physical evidence (e.g., fingerprints, weapons, blood, DNA) and non-physical evidence (e.g., testimony from witnesses, surveillance footage) that could help establish facts about the crime.

Interviewing Witnesses and Victims (مقابلة الشهود والضحايا):

Law enforcement officers interview anyone who may have information about the crime, including witnesses and the victim. These interviews help form a timeline and establish possible motives.

Suspect Interrogation (استجواب المشتبه بهم):

If suspects are identified, law enforcement may question them to gather more information. This is a critical part of the investigation where detectives aim to obtain confessions or more evidence.

Analysis of Evidence (تحليل الأدلة):

Forensic experts and crime labs play a vital role in analyzing collected evidence. This could include fingerprint analysis, DNA testing, and ballistics analysis, among others.

Case Filing (رفع القضية):

Once the investigation is completed and sufficient evidence is gathered, the case is prepared for prosecution. This includes submitting the findings to the prosecutor's office.

4. Tools and Techniques in Criminal Investigation

Criminal investigators rely on various tools and techniques to solve cases:

Forensic Science (علم الأدلة الجنائية):

The application of scientific methods and techniques to analyze evidence such as fingerprints, DNA, and ballistic evidence.

Surveillance (المراقبة):

Monitoring suspects through physical surveillance or digital methods, such as wiretaps or GPS tracking.

Interviews and Interrogations (المقابلات والاستجواب):

Techniques used to gather information from witnesses, victims, and suspects. Interviews are non-confrontational, while interrogations are more direct.

Crime Scene Reconstruction (إعادة بناء مسرح الجريمة):

The process of using evidence to recreate the sequence of events during the crime, helping investigators understand how it occurred.

Digital Forensics (الطب الشرعي الرقمي):

Analyzing digital devices like computers, mobile phones, and storage media to uncover evidence of crimes such as hacking, fraud, or cybercrime.

Ballistics and DNA Analysis (تحليل الباليستيكا والحمض النووي):

Specialized techniques used to link bullets, weapons, and DNA samples to suspects or victims.

5. Challenges in Criminal Investigation

Criminal investigations are not always straightforward. Investigators face several challenges:

Lack of Evidence (نقص الأدلة):

Some crimes leave minimal physical evidence, making it difficult to solve the case.

Witness Inconsistencies (تباين شهادات الشهود):

Witnesses may have different recollections of events, which can complicate the investigation.

Technological Issues (المشاكل التقنية):

Investigating crimes involving technology, such as hacking or cybercrime, can be complex due to constantly changing digital tools.

False Confessions (الاعترافات الكاذبة):

Suspects may provide false confessions, which can mislead investigators.

Jurisdictional Issues (مشاكل الاختصاص القضائي):

Crimes that cross multiple jurisdictions can present legal challenges in gathering evidence and prosecuting suspects.

Terminology

Criminal Investigation - التحقيق الجنائي

Crime Scene - مسرح الجريمة

Evidence - الأدلة

Forensic Science - علم الأدلة الجنائية

Suspect - المشتبه به

Witness - الشاهد

Victim - الضحية

Interrogation - الاستجواب

Interview - المقابلة

Surveillance - المراقبة

DNA Analysis - تحليل الحمض النووي

Fingerprinting - بصمات الأصابع

Ballistics - علم الباليستيكا

Trace Evidence - الأدلة الدقيقة

Crime Lab - مختبر الجريمة

Coroner - الطبيب الشرعي

Motive - الدافع

Alibi - (الحجة) البراءة

Confession - الاعتراف

Prosecution - الادعاء

