

## AES Standard for Audio Forensics - Speech Collection Guidelines for Speaker Recognition: Interviewing at a Temporary Location



### WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

The standard specifies recommended practices for recording audio intended for use in forensic speaker recognition analyses. It focuses on doing so at a temporary non-laboratory location, possibly by personnel without a forensic science background.

A "temporary non-laboratory location" is a location that was not originally designed or intended for audio recording and can range from an unused office space in a building to a tent in the wilderness.

This standard is intended to be one of a series, each covering a specific recording scenario.

### WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Audio intended for forensic speaker recognition must meet certain criteria with respect to quality, duration, and content to be usable. This standard specifies methods that will help meet these criteria when recording in a non-laboratory environment.

Using the standard will help:

- Identify appropriate recording equipment.
- Set up the physical environment for recording.
- Determine appropriate audio formats.
- Perform interviews to elicit appropriate speech content for forensic use.

### HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

The standard is intended to guide users as they plan an audio collection activity. Key elements covered in the standard include the following:

- The recording location - comfort and minimization of distractions for the persons being recorded.
- The audio environment - as acoustically clean as possible.
- The recording equipment - capable of adequate audio quality.
- The individual being recorded - appropriately identified in project records and the recording.
- The speech collected - speech samples with both the content and duration required for forensic purposes.
- Suggestions on specific content for the audio recording, and methods to elicit it from speakers is provided.

These guidelines do not cover the methods used to analyze the resulting recordings or details related to the handling, transmission, storage, or preservation of collected data.

