

## Accuracy of Eyewitness Testimony

- 1) Improves as the length of time of eye contact with the alleged criminal increases. [So one second of eye contact is less accurate than ten seconds]
- 2) Decreases as the quality of illumination during the commission of the crime decreases [So blurring lighting diminishes the quality of eye witness testimony]
- 3) Decreases as leading questions are directed at one specific person in the lineup. [For example, asking “how about the person on the far right end of the lineup?]
- 4) Decreases as the level of stress that the person giving eye witness testimony rises.[So a person who is hidden from the sight of the criminal during the eyewitness is more accurate than one who has a gun pointed at the face]
- 5) Decreases as the number of people included in the lineup increases. [So, a lineup of three produces a more accurate identification than does a lineup of twelve]
- 6) Improves when the witness is shown a photo array of the criminal suspects prior to an actual screening of the suspects behind a one-way glass divider.
- 7) Decreases when the racial array of the line-up is mixed between a variety of races [So having only one suspect of a particular race in the lineup raises the risk

of a false identification of this suspect when this race corresponds to what the crime victim has reported]

- 8) Bears no meaningful relationship to the level of expressed confidence in the accuracy of the eye witness testimony given. [So when a witness swears that he or she is positive of the accuracy of his or her testimony it is no. More accurate than someone one is pretty sure]