

Abstract

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The influence of clothing change on solo and group street identifications

In England, street identifications are mainly conducted shortly after a crime, with the suspect present in person (live). Most are solo procedures (showups), although group procedures involving two or more suspects can be conducted – in effect these are all-suspect lineups. Culprits also sometimes change or discard clothing on leaving the scene of the crime. The current research found no differences in identification rates between solo and group live culprit-present or in culprit-absent trials in which the culprit was replaced by an innocent suspect, although a clothing change between mock crime and procedure substantially reduced the likelihood of anyone being identified.