



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Polygraph Test

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A magistrate's court in Kerala has allowed the police to conduct a polygraph (lie detector) test on at least 10 staff members of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple

About Polygraph Test:

A polygraph test is a method used to measure physiological responses to questions to determine whether a person is being truthful.

Records physiological responses such as pulse rate, blood pressure, respiration, and galvanic skin response while a person answers questions.

Legal Status in India

No statute mandates polygraph tests; the practice is governed under investigative discretion of police/intelligence agencies.

Indian Evidence Act, 1872: Section 45 allows expert opinion evidence. Polygraph reports can be presented as expert opinion, but not treated as conclusive evidence.

Supreme Court Position: In Selvi v. State of Karnataka (2010), SC ruled:

- o Polygraph, narco-analysis, and brain-mapping tests cannot be forced, as they violate Article 20(3) (Right against self-incrimination).

- o They cannot be admitted as evidence in criminal trials without voluntary consent.

Constitutional Provisions

- o Article 20(3) – Protection against self-incrimination: No person can be compelled to testify against themselves in a criminal case. Forced polygraph tests violate this right.

- o Article 21 – Right to Life and Personal Liberty: Non-consensual polygraph tests may violate personal liberty and dignity.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**