APPROACHES IN PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL CASES AT THE INTERROGATION OF THE POLICE: A CASE STUDY OF THE METROPOLITANT POLICE DIVISION 9

POL. Lt. THEERAYUT SUTTHIPONPISARN

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Dheerayut Suthichindapas 4936536 SHCJ/M

The thesis in this research is designed to study the relationship between personal background factors and protection of witnesses in criminal cases at the interrogation of the police and to study the relationship between other factors related to protection of witnesses in criminal cases at the interrogation of the police in the Metropolitan Police Division 9. The sample includes police officers who work in the Investigation Section of the Metropolitan Police Station in the Metropolitan Police Division 9, totaling 112, collected by using questionnaires. Statistical tools used for analysis include percentage, mean, standard deviation, analysis of variance, and multiple regression. The research findings are as follows:

1. The largest group of respondents are male, with an average age of over 30 years, having been in the police force for a period of 1-5 years, holding the rank of first lieutenant, completing a university degree, earning a monthly income of 10,000-15,000 baht, having attended training on protecting witnesses in criminal cases, and having attended training on legal reform.

2. The results of the analysis found that personal background factors and other factors related to the investigation officer's performance significantly affect the protection of witnesses in criminal cases (Sig. = 0.000) in the investigation officer's knowledge and understanding of the law and the constitution (Sig. = 0.000) for the efficient investigation of the crime, the use of budget (Sig. = 0.002) to investigate the crime, and the investigation activity (Sig. = 0.003). In addition, it is recommended to improve collaboration among agencies related to protecting witnesses, such as the Office of the Attorney General, the Special Investigation Bureau, the National Police Office, the Office of Legal Protection, among others.
This research aimed to study the relationships between the personal backgrounds of police officers and their ability to protect individual witnesses in criminal cases at the interrogation stage and to study the other factors related to protection under supervision of Metropolitan Police Division 9, Thailand. Samples were 112 commissioned officers working as interrogators at metropolitan police stations under the supervision of Metropolitan Police Division 9. Questionnaires were used in data collection and the statistical applications were percentage, means, standard deviation, ANOVA and Multiple Classification Analysis.

Most samples were male and less than 30 years of age. They had been police officers for 1-5 years and were at the rank of Police Lieutenant, earning an income of 10,000 – 15,000 Baht a month. They had been assigned to an interrogation job for 4-6 years and had attended training/seminars on protecting individual witnesses 1-2 times.

The tests regarding the hypothesis showed that the factors which affected their approach toward protecting individual witnesses in the criminal cases at the interrogation stage were - education (Sig. = 0.000); knowledge and understanding of following the constitutional codes (Sig. = 0.000); problems and limitations of protecting witness (Sig. = 0.000); budget (Sig. = 0.001); cooperation in testimony (Sig. = 0.002); tenure of interrogation job (Sig. = 0.003); thoughts of changing job (0.004); number of officers (Sig. = 0.007); tenure of being police (Sig. = 0.017); and rank (Sig. = 0.036).

The recommendations based on this research were as follows - there should be amendments to laws, regulations, and obligations related to the protection of individual witnesses, particularly in areas where there were loop holes. In addition, the cooperative system with other government units related to the protection of witnesses should be improved. For example, the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecution, Department of Special Task Investigation, the National Police Bureau and the Office of Witness Protection etc. could all cooperate more efficiently.

KEY WORDS: PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL WITNESS / INTERROGATION OFFICER / METROPOLITANT POLICE DIVISION 9

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