

## Polygraph: Not Admissible In Court, One Way Or The Other.

A nurse filed a complex wrongful termination lawsuit against her former employer in the US District Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

The court recently disposed of the legal issues surrounding a polygraph examination the nurse underwent for her state board of nursing in conjunction with allegations she had been stealing morphine from the hospital prior to her termination.

Police and other law enforcement agencies may choose to use a polygraph, or “lie detector” test, as a basis to decide whether to go ahead or to back off from investigating a particular suspect.

Polygraphs, however, are still considered fundamentally unreliable by the courts. They cannot be used in court to incriminate a criminal suspect.

The same is true, as in this case, when the subject passes a polygraph examination. Passing a polygraph examination does not prove innocence any more than failing one proves guilt in a court of law. Raymond v. U.S.A. Healthcare, 2007 WL 1455862 (N.D. Iowa, May 9, 2007).