

Command Spanish® Program Data Sheet for *Survival Spanish for Probation Officers*

Materials Description and Content: *Survival Spanish for Probation Officers* (SSPO) is published by Command Spanish®, Inc. and consists of a 90-page manual bound in a 3-ring binder with 2 accompanying CDs. It was developed in consultation with local, state, and federal probation officers and supervisors. In addition to a special section devoted to pronunciation, SSPO contains the following work-specific language sections: Routine Office Procedures; Making Appointments; Personal Data; Work and Family; Drug and Alcohol Inquiries; Counseling; Health Issues; Sex Offenders; Field Visits; Money Matters; Travel; Juvenile Probation; Conditions of Probation; Violations and Revocation; and Dirty / Alert Words. SSPO also contains the following appendices: Drug Table; Probation Glossary; Spanish Nicknames; Spanish Surname System; Consent Forms for Blood, Urine, or Hair Samples; and Signs for the Probation Office.

Program Description: This program provides non-Spanish-speaking probation officers, supervisors, and their staff with basic, functional skills in Spanish. Utilizing phonetic encoding and scripted Spanish, this program addresses a wide variety of officer / client scenarios important in probation work. **No prior knowledge of Spanish necessary.**

Goal: To prepare non-Spanish-speaking probation officers and staff to utilize work-specific, scripted Spanish and cross-cultural strategies to better manage Spanish-speaking probationers.

Objectives: Upon completion, participants will be able to use Spanish to: conduct initial and subsequent interviews; announce fines, restitution, court dates, and appointments; greet and direct clients; complete drug screening; obtain information in order to complete status forms; conduct field and home visits.

Methods of Instruction: Modeling, intensive drill, choral response, alpha-beta line, learning pairs and triads, Total Physical Response, role-playing, simulations, and situation cards. Emphasis is placed on the ability to read scripted Spanish.

Cross-Cultural Component: Not included in manual. Suggestion: 3 to 4 hours with emphasis on alcohol and drug abuse, gender issues, demographics, Latino subsets, and Roman Law vs. English Law.

Intended Audience: This program is intended for probation officers, probation supervisors, probation office staff, and court personnel.

Length of Instruction: 16 to 30 hours, depending on client's needs and interests.

Special Considerations: This program is unlike most Command Spanish® in that it teaches primarily "scripted Spanish." This means that participants are taught how to read correct Spanish from the manual. Probation officers learn how to conduct office visits by probationers in Spanish by reading from prescribed scripts. This program addresses both adult and juvenile probation. It may be used for both state or federal probation. The program also provides for front office training.

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About the Author

Dr. Sam L. Slick is a Professor of Spanish and former Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Spanish from Illinois State University, and a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Iowa, as well as diplomas from the Ibero-American University in Mexico City, and from the University of Madrid, Spain. He is a specialist in language acquisition and is one of this country's foremost trainers in Spanish for criminal justice.

Dr. Slick has written and lectured widely on Spanish language training for law enforcement. His textbook, entitled *Survival Spanish for Law Enforcement Officers*, is used by hundreds of police agencies and academies throughout the United States, and has been adopted by the U.S. Defense Language Institute for use in Task Force 6, the federal government's war on drugs. In conjunction with Gene Blair, former Director of the Police Academy at Sam Houston State University, Dr. Slick co-authored "Survival Spanish: Needed Training for Police," in the journal, *The Police Chief*, in January, 1990; and "Survival Spanish for Police Officers," in *The Police Investigator*, in January of 1991.

He has accumulated many years of experience working with criminal justice officials. He has also logged hundreds of hours riding with police officers, while observing first-hand virtually all police interventions -- from traffic control to homicides. Dr. Slick completed line tours with such diverse groups as the U. S. Border Patrol and the "Chicano Squad" of the Houston Police Department. He has participated in INS raids where he served as an interpreter. He is the former chief translator for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and has been a consultant to numerous county correctional facilities.

Dr. Slick has taught survival Spanish and cross-cultural training at dozens of police academies throughout Texas, Idaho, California, Washington, Missouri, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida and Virginia. In addition, he has provided training for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs, and the U.S. Special Forces in counterdrug interdiction. He has developed the materials and curriculum for survival Spanish at the U.S. Regional Counterdrug Training Academy where he serves as lead Spanish instructor. He also teaches regularly for the National Association of Criminal Interdiction Officers.

Dr. Slick is a member of the American Correctional Association and the Southern States Correctional Association. He has taught survival Spanish and cross-cultural training to hundreds of probation officers.

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