**Advantages and Disadvantages of Using a Recording Device**

**For Grand Jury Interviews**

**Advantages:**

* Conflicting statements can be reviewed and compared
* Interviewees will be more careful to make accurate statements
* Statements can be reviewed and clarified during a follow-up interview
* Promotes active listening by reducing note taking
* Recording devices are a one-time expense and cost less than a court reporter
* Can be used to support possible criminal charges, upon referral to the D.A.

**Disadvantages:**

* Recording is intrusive and may intimidate an interviewee, causing a withholding of information
* May change the dynamics of the overall interview process, resulting in fewer voluntary interviews and the need to issue more subpoenas
* Requires notification and consent prior to being used
* Requires current knowledge of legal codes, such as PC 632 (two-party consent)
* Potential for loss of confidentiality if the recording device is misplaced
* Does not eliminate the requirement to take notes
* Maybe be very time consuming to review and research statements
* Promotes reliance on equipment over reliance on note taking
* Device may malfunction

**Other:**

* Recording procedures must be developed and approved
* The recording device should be purchased by the County and be county property (to ensure confidentiality, jurors should not use their cell phones as recorders)
* The recording device should remain in the grand jury chambers except during on-site interviews
* The device should have the ability to convert audio into text