



# Advanced Criminal Investigation

8-hour class

Course Outline

Blue to Gold Law Enforcement Training  
1818 W. Francis Ave #101, Spokane Washington 99205  
888-579-7796 | [bluetogold.com](http://bluetogold.com) | [info@bluetogold.com](mailto:info@bluetogold.com)

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This course will help students become proficient in various advanced criminal investigation techniques, including handling informants, dealing with homes, and arrests.

**Objectives:**

Students who complete the course will:

- Understand various advanced search and seizure related issues, including:
- Burdens of proof
- Fourth Amendment standing
- The Single Purpose Container Doctrine
- Managing informants
- Anonymous tips
- Collective knowledge
- Constructive possession
- Home entries based on deception
- Dealing with hotel rooms
- Reduce or eliminate lawsuits
- Make good case law

**Time and Module Outline:**

- I. Module One: Course Introduction – 100 minutes
  - A. Discuss the Fourth Amendment and how it compares to the state's constitution.
  - B. Discuss the preference for warrants.
  - C. Identify the three Golden Rules of Search & Seizure.
    - The more you articulate why you did something, the more likely it will be upheld in court
    - The more serious the crime, the more reasonable your actions are likely to be viewed
    - Conduct all warrantless searches and seizures in the same manner as if you had a warrant
  - D. The core requirement of the Fourth Amendment is reasonableness
  - E. Standing to contest a search requires a legitimate privacy interest

Break – 10 minutes

II. Module Two: Burdens of Proof – 60 minutes

- A. Definition of probable cause
  - Combination of circumstances
- B. Definition of reasonable suspicion
- C. Definition of preponderance of the evidence
- D. Definition of beyond a reasonable doubt

Break – 10 Minutes

III. Module Three: Single Purpose Container Doctrine – 20 minutes

- A. Explain what the Single Purpose Container doctrine is
  - Explain why a search warrant is not needed to search these containers

IV. Module Four: Dealing with Informants – 80 minutes

- A. Confidential informants
  - Totality of the circumstances versus two-part test
  - Tracking confidential informants
  - Victims and witnesses
- B. Collective knowledge doctrine
- C. Dealing with anonymous tips

V. Module Five: Dealing with Homes - 120 minutes

A. Securing a home for a search warrant

- Adding plain view evidence to warrant

B. Entry based on deception

- Known officers and deception
- Creating a false exigency
- Telling someone a justified legal truth

C. Train officers about wrong address liability

- Explain that once officers know they hit the wrong house, they must release occupants

D. Dealing with hotels, and immediate eviction best practices

Break – 10 minutes

VI. Module Six: Constructive Possession – 60 Minutes

A. How to prove constructive possession

- Explain that mere presence around contraband, without more, is not illegal
- How to prove guilty mind evidence
- Discuss the concept of willful blindness and how to overcome it

VII. Module Seven: Patdowns and Arrests – 40 Minutes

- A. Explain the three requirements for unprovoked flight
  - Train officers in the two requirements for a lawful plain feel seizure
- B. Describe when arrest warrants may be served at a home
- C. Explain the search incident to arrest exception

**Total Time: 480**