



Advanced Traffic Stops

8 Hour Course

Course Outline

Blue to Gold Law Enforcement Training
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Learners:

In-service training for certified law enforcement, including patrol, investigations, and specialty units.

Length of Instruction:

One day, 8 hours total.

Goal:

Officers will be taught both black letter law and real world “best practices,” making them more professional on video and reducing their exposure to civil lawsuits.

Objectives:

Students who complete the course will:

- Understand important case law regarding traffic stops
- Understand that every search or seizure requires consent, a recognized exception, or a warrant
- Know the rules regarding the six most common motor vehicle searches
- Reduce or eliminate lawsuits
- Make good case law

Time and Module Outline:

Module One: Course Introduction – 130 minutes

1. Discuss the Fourth Amendment and how it compares to the MD constitution.
2. Discuss the preference for warrants.
3. Go over the three Golden Rules for search and seizure regarding traffic stops.
4. History of the Motor Vehicle Exception
5. Definition of a search under the Fourth Amendment
6. Two types of searches under the Fourth Amendment- Jones and Katz

7. All searches or seizures require consent, recognized exception, or a warrant
8. Standing to contest a search

Break – 10 minutes

Module Two: Making the Stop – 130 minutes

1. Pretext stops
2. Scope of traffic stops
3. Consensual encounters
4. Community caretaking
5. Anonymous tips
6. Investigative detentions
7. Hunches versus reasonable suspicion
8. Immediate release if suspicion dispelled
9. Involuntary transport
10. Freedom of speech and contempt of cop stops

Module Three: Investigative Stops - 130 minutes

1. Questioning occupants
2. Identifying passengers
3. Consent to search
4. Scope of search
5. Apparent authority to consent
6. Plain view and plain view seizure
7. Control over occupants

Break – 10 minutes

Module Four: Warrantless Searches – 100 Minutes

1. Legal presumptions

3. Possibility of access searches
4. Offense-related searches
5. Probable cause searches
6. Inventories
7. K9 searches

Total: 480 minutes