

Advanced Traffic Stops 8 Hour Course

Course Outline

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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

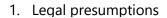
- 1. Pretext stops
- 2. Scope of traffic stops
- 3. Consensual encounters
- 4. Community caretaking
- 5. Anonymous tips
- 6. Investigative detentions
- 7. Hunches versus reasonable suspicion
- 8. Immediate release if suspicion dispelled
- 9. Involuntary transport
- 10. Freedom of speech and contempt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





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

Total: 480 minutes

