

THE
**LAW
ENFORCEMENT
DICTIONARY**



Blue to Gold
Publications

Law Enforcement Dictionary



Blue to Gold Publications

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We recognize and value the role these officers played in informing a resource designed to support clarity, consistency, and professionalism across the field.

— Blue to Gold LLC

Phonetic alphabets reference

The **IPA column** contains the symbol in the International Phonetic Alphabet, as used in phonemic transcriptions in modern English dictionaries.

The **ASCII column** shows the corresponding symbol in the Antimoon ASCII Phonetic Alphabet, which can be used to type the pronunciation of words on a computer without the use of special fonts.

For a full description of the alphabets + audio recordings of the sounds, visit www.antimoon.com/ipa

Source: Antimoon.com – Advice and help for serious English learners

vowels

IPA	ASCII	examples
ʌ	^	<u>cup</u> , <u>luck</u>
ɑ:	a:	<u>arm</u> , <u>father</u>
æ	@	<u>cat</u> , <u>black</u>
ə	..	<u>away</u> , <u>cinema</u>
e	e	<u>met</u> , <u>bed</u>
ɜ:ʳ	e:(r)	<u>turn</u> , <u>learn</u>
ɪ	i	<u>hit</u> , <u>sitting</u>
i:	i:	<u>see</u> , <u>heat</u>
ɒ	o	<u>hot</u> , <u>rock</u>
ɔ:	o:	<u>call</u> , <u>four</u>
ʊ	u	<u>put</u> , <u>could</u>
u:	u:	<u>blue</u> , <u>food</u>
aɪ	ai	<u>five</u> , <u>eye</u>
aʊ	au	<u>now</u> , <u>out</u>
oʊ/əʊ	Ou	<u>go</u> , <u>home</u>
eəʳ	e..(r)	<u>where</u> , <u>air</u>
eɪ	ei	<u>say</u> , <u>eight</u>
ɪəʳ	i..(r)	<u>near</u> , <u>here</u>
ɔɪ	oi	<u>boy</u> , <u>join</u>
ʊəʳ	u..(r)	<u>pure</u> , <u>tourist</u>

consonants

IPA	ASCII	examples
b	b	<u>bad</u> , <u>lab</u>
d	d	<u>did</u> , <u>lady</u>
f	f	<u>find</u> , <u>if</u>
g	g	<u>give</u> , <u>flag</u>
h	h	<u>how</u> , <u>hello</u>
j	j	<u>yes</u> , <u>yellow</u>
k	k	<u>cat</u> , <u>back</u>
l	l	<u>leg</u> , <u>little</u>
m	m	<u>man</u> , <u>lemon</u>
n	n	<u>no</u> , <u>ten</u>
ŋ	N	<u>sing</u> , <u>finger</u>
p	p	<u>pet</u> , <u>map</u>
r	r	<u>red</u> , <u>try</u>
s	s	<u>sun</u> , <u>miss</u>
ʃ	S	<u>she</u> , <u>crash</u>
t	t	<u>tea</u> , <u>getting</u>
tʃ	tS	<u>check</u> , <u>church</u>
θ	th	<u>think</u> , <u>both</u>
ð	TH	<u>this</u> , <u>mother</u>
v	v	<u>voice</u> , <u>five</u>
w	w	<u>wet</u> , <u>window</u>
z	z	<u>zoo</u> , <u>lazy</u>
ʒ	Z	<u>pleasure</u> , <u>vision</u>
dʒ	dZ	<u>just</u> , <u>large</u>



10-4

/ˈtɛn ˈfɔːr/ noun

A radio code used to acknowledge receipt of a transmission or to confirm understanding. Commonly employed in law enforcement and emergency services radio communications.

Example 1: "10-4, I'll respond to the location," the officer said over the radio.

Example 2: Dispatch confirmed the information with a simple "10-4."

10-42 Club

/ˈtɛn ˈfɔːr-tē-ˈtʊ ˈklʌb/ noun

A social or fraternal group composed of retired law enforcement officers, named after the radio code "10-42" meaning "ending tour of duty."

Example 1: After retiring, he joined the 10-42 Club to stay connected with former colleagues.

Example 2: The 10-42 Club held its annual dinner to honor newly retired officer.

24/24 Rule

/ˈtwən-tē-ˈfɔːr ˈtwən-tē-ˈfɔːr ˈrʊl/ noun

An investigative guideline emphasizing the importance of analyzing the last 24 hours of a homicide victim's life and the first 24 hours after body discovery. These timeframes often yield the most critical evidence and leads.

Example 1: Detectives applied the 24/24 Rule to map out the victim's final activities.

Example 2: The case grew cold after the 24/24 window passed with no substantial leads.

7

/ˈsɛv-ən/ noun

Shorthand reference for "Code 7," a radio designation used by law enforcement to indicate a meal break.

Example 1: The deputy radioed in "going 7" before leaving for lunch.

Example 2: Dispatch confirmed that Unit 21 was on a 7 at the diner.



A (Adult)

/ā/ noun

A shorthand classification used to indicate that the subject or involved party is an adult, commonly in reporting or categorization systems.

Example 1: The form listed the suspect's status as "A" to denote adult.

Example 2: Officers recorded the subject as "A" for age classification purposes.

AB

/ā-'bē/ noun

An abbreviation referring to a member of the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist prison gang known for violent criminal activity and organized operations within the prison system.

Example 1: Intelligence identified the inmate as a confirmed AB associate.

Example 2: AB affiliations often complicate housing assignments in correctional facilities.

Abandoned (Constitutional Abandonment)

/ə-'ban-dənd/ adjective

In the context of constitutional law, "abandoned" refers to the voluntary,

intentional, and unequivocal relinquishment of a protected privacy interest in property or effects, thereby eliminating Fourth Amendment protections against search and seizure. Determination of abandonment is based on objective manifestations of intent, such as disclaiming ownership or leaving property in a manner indicating no intent to return or retain a possessory interest

Example 1: The officer lawfully searched the abandoned backpack after the suspect fled and denied ownership.

Example 2: By leaving the rental car parked illegally for days with no retrieval attempt, the vehicle was deemed abandoned and subject to inventory search without a warrant.

Abduction

/ab-'dək-shən/ noun

A form of false imprisonment involving the illegal restraint or confinement of a person against their will. Abduction may involve taking an individual—adult or child—by force, threat, or deceit, and includes scenarios where a child is unlawfully taken from or not returned to their legal guardian. Often overlaps with the legal concept of kidnapping.

Example 1: The mother reported the abduction after the non-custodial parent failed to return the child.

Example 2: Surveillance footage confirmed the abduction of the store employee at closing time.

Abide

/ə-ˈbīd/ verb

To comply with or follow a rule, decision, agreement, or directive. Often used in law enforcement contexts involving court orders, laws, or official instructions.

Example 1: The subject agreed to abide by the terms of the restraining order.

Example 2: All officers must abide by departmental policy during investigations.

Abuse

/ə-ˈbyūs/ noun / verb

Intentional actions that cause harm, injury, or suffering to another, including physical, sexual, emotional, or financial maltreatment. As a verb, it refers to the act of carrying out such harm.

Example 1: The report alleged years of emotional abuse by the caregiver.

Example 2: The officer observed signs that the child may have been abused.

AC (Aircraft Crash)

/ā-ˈsē/ noun

Radio or documentation shorthand for an aircraft crash incident requiring emergency response and investigation.

Example 1: Units were dispatched to the AC reported near the rural airstrip.

Example 2: The scene was secured pending arrival of federal aviation investigators.

Access and Functional Needs

/ˈak-ˌses ənd ˈfəŋk-sh(ə-)nəl ˈnēdz/ noun

A classification for individuals who require additional assistance, adaptations, or accommodations during emergency situations due to physical, mental, sensory, cognitive, or language-related limitations.

Example 1: The emergency shelter had designated areas for individuals with access and functional needs.

Example 2: Officers are trained to identify and support those with access and functional needs during evacuations.

Accessory (See figure below)

/ak-ˈse-sə-rē/ noun

A person who aids, abets, or assists in the commission of a crime, either before (accessory before the fact) or after (accessory after the fact) the offense, without directly participating in the main criminal act.

Example 1: She was arrested as an accessory after helping the suspect evade arrest.

Example 2: The prosecutor charged him as an accessory before the fact in the robbery.



Accidental

/ˌæk-sə-'den-tl/ adjective

Describes an event or outcome that occurs unintentionally, without premeditation or deliberate action. In law enforcement, it often refers to non-criminal incidents.

Example 1: The shooting was ruled accidental after forensic review.

Example 2: Officers documented the fall as accidental based on witness statements.

Accomplice

/ə-'käm-pləs/ noun

A person who knowingly and voluntarily participates in the commission of a crime with another individual.

Example 1: The driver was charged as an accomplice in the armed robbery.

Example 2: An accomplice may face the same penalties as the principal offender.

Accord

/ə-'kórd/ noun / verb

As a noun, it refers to agreement or harmony between parties; as a verb, it means to grant or give. In legal and policing contexts, often used in reference to mutual understanding or decision.

Example 1: The victim and suspect reached an accord through mediation.

Example 2: Rights were accorded to the detainee upon arrest.

Accusation

/ˌa-kyə-'zā-shən/ noun

A statement or claim that someone has committed a crime or wrongdoing. It initiates the process of investigation or legal action.

Example 1: The accusation prompted an internal investigation by the department.

Example 2: Officers must carefully document all accusations made by complainants.

Accused

/ə-'kyüzd/ noun

A person formally charged with a crime in a legal proceeding. The term is neutral and does not imply guilt.

Example 1: The accused was brought before the magistrate for arraignment.

Example 2: The rights of the accused must be protected throughout the process.

Accuser

/ə-'kyü-zər/ noun

An individual who makes a formal complaint or allegation of a crime against another.

Example 1: The accuser provided a detailed statement to investigators.

Example 2: The case relied heavily on the testimony of the accuser.

Acquaintance Stalking

/ə-ˈkwān-t̬ns ˈstò-kiŋ/ noun

A form of stalking where the offender and victim have a prior, often casual, relationship such as coworkers, classmates, or neighbors. Can be particularly dangerous due to proximity and perceived access.

Example 1: The victim reported acquaintance stalking by a colleague who repeatedly followed her.

Example 2: Acquaintance stalking cases often require early intervention to prevent escalation.

Acquittal

/ə-ˈkwit-əl/ noun

A formal judgment by a court that a defendant is not guilty of the criminal charge(s) brought against them. An acquittal may result from a jury verdict or judge's decision in a bench trial.

Example 1: The defendant celebrated his acquittal after a three-day deliberation.

Example 2: Despite strong public opinion, the court issued an acquittal due to insufficient evidence.

Actual Authority

/ˈak-chə-wəl ə-ˈthòr-ə-tē/ noun

The legal power granted explicitly to a person or agent to act on behalf of another, such as giving valid consent to law enforcement for a search. In the context of consent searches, actual authority exists when the person has joint access or control over the area or property.

Example 1: The roommate had actual authority to consent to a search of the shared living room.

Example 2: Without actual authority, a person cannot lawfully consent to a search of another's private space.

United States v. Matlock, 415 U.S. 164 (1974).

Actionable Grievance

/ˈak-sh(ə-)nə-bəl ˈgrē-vəns/ noun

A formal complaint by an employee alleging workplace conditions or practices that affect employment rights, efficiency, or safety, which requires official review and potential remedial action.

Example 1: HR reviewed the officer's actionable grievance regarding unsafe duty gear.

Example 2: An actionable grievance may trigger a procedural or policy audit.

Active Aggression

/ˈak-tiv ə-ˈgre-shən/ noun

Behavior that includes direct threats, attempts, or acts of physical violence by an individual against officers, others, or themselves. It justifies a defensive or control response by law enforcement.

Example 1: The suspect's active aggression warranted use of intermediate force.

Example 2: Active aggression was documented in the incident report to support the Taser deployment.

Active Resistance

/ˈak-tiv ri-ˈzi-stəns/ noun

A subject's use of physical actions, such as pulling away or fleeing, that

are non-assaultive but designed to resist or evade law enforcement control.

Example 1: The subject's active resistance included running from the scene during arrest.

Example 2: Officers are trained to recognize active resistance as distinct from passive noncompliance.

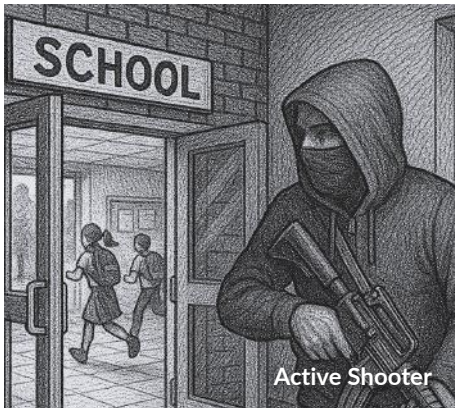
Active Shooter (See figure below)

/ˈak-tiv ˈshü-tɪŋ/ noun

An event where an armed individual is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area, often requiring immediate police intervention to neutralize the threat.

Example 1: Officers responded to an active shooting reported at a shopping mall.

Example 2: Training scenarios now simulate active shooting events to improve readiness.



Actus Reus

/ˈak-təs ˈrā-əs/ noun

A Latin legal term meaning “guilty

act”; refers to the physical act or unlawful omission that constitutes a criminal offense. It must be proven, along with mens rea, to establish criminal liability.

Example 1: The prosecutor demonstrated the actus reus of theft through surveillance footage.

Example 2: No conviction was possible without both the actus reus and the criminal intent.

Acute Stress Disorder

/ə-ˈkyüt ˈstres dis-ˌôr-dər/ noun

A short-term psychological reaction to a traumatic event, characterized by anxiety, dissociation, and intrusive symptoms occurring within 3 days to 1 month post-trauma. May precede Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Example 1: The officer exhibited signs of acute stress disorder after a fatal shooting incident.

Example 2: Departmental wellness units monitor for acute stress disorder among first responders.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act

noun

A civil rights law that protects people with disabilities from discrimination.

Example 1: The ADA mandates that public buildings are wheelchair accessible.

Example 2: The installation of TTY in the call center satisfied ADA requirements.

Adam Unit

/ˈɑ-dəm ˈyü-nət/ noun

A patrol unit designation used in some U.S. police departments (notably LAPD-style phonetics), identifying a two-officer car. “Adam” represents the letter A in phonetic alphabet usage.

Example 1: Dispatch assigned Adam Unit 12 to the robbery in progress.

Example 2: Adam Units often patrol high-density or priority zones.

Additional Handgun

/ə-ˈdi-shə-nəl ˈhand-gən/ noun

A secondary, authorized handgun carried by a police officer in addition to their primary service weapon. Typically worn in a concealed manner and used as a backup firearm in case the primary becomes inoperable or inaccessible.

Example 1: The officer drew his additional handgun after his service weapon jammed.

Example 2: Policy permits an additional handgun if qualified and documented with training.

Administer

/ad-ˈmi-nə-stər/ verb

To manage, dispense, or carry out duties involving care, application, or enforcement. In law enforcement, it may refer to giving medication, conducting tests, or enforcing procedures.

Example 1: The officer was trained to administer Narcan in opioid overdose cases.

Example 2: Only certified personnel may administer polygraph exams.

Admissible

/ad-ˈmi-sə-bəl/ adjective

Describes evidence that is legally acceptable in court for consideration by a judge or jury. Determined according to rules of evidence such as relevance, reliability, and conformity to procedural rules.

Example 1: The defense objected, arguing the document was not admissible.

Example 2: Only admissible evidence can be used to convict a defendant.

Admissible Evidence

/əd-ˈmi-sə-bəl ˈe-və-dəns/ noun

Evidence that is legally allowed to be presented to a jury or judge in a court proceeding. Admissibility depends on relevance, reliability, and compliance with rules of evidence.

Example 1: The judge ruled the surveillance footage was admissible evidence.

Example 2: Hearsay is generally not considered admissible evidence unless it falls under a recognized exception.

Admissibility of Evidence

/ad-ˌmis-ə-ˈbi-lə-tē əv ˈe-və-dəns/ noun

A legal standard determining whether evidence can be introduced and considered in court. Evidence must be relevant, material, and not overly prejudicial, and must comply with legal rules such as hearsay and search and seizure doctrines.

Example 1: The judge ruled on the admissibility of evidence from the search.

Booking

/ˈbū-kiŋ/ noun

The administrative procedure following an arrest, which includes recording the suspect's personal information, charges, fingerprints, photographs, and other relevant data into law enforcement databases.

Example 1: Booking was delayed due to technical issues at the holding facility.

Example 2: The suspect became combative during the booking process.

Bookmaking

/ˈbūk-,mā-kiŋ/ noun

The illegal practice of accepting, placing, or arranging bets, often on sporting events, without proper licensing or in violation of gambling laws.

Example 1: Detectives busted a bookmaking operation running out of the café's back room.

Example 2: Bookmaking charges were filed against the ringleader and his associates.

Border Searches (See figure below)

/ˈbôr-dər sər-čəz/ noun

Warrantless and suspicionless searches conducted at U.S. borders or their functional equivalents, justified by the government's interest in regulating immigration and contraband.

Example 1: The customs officer conducted a border search of the traveler's electronic devices.

Example 2: More invasive searches at the border may require reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

See *U.S. v. Villamonte-Marquez*, 462 U.S. 579 (1983). *U.S. v. Brown*, 858 F. Supp. 297 (1994)



Bounty Hunter

/ˈbaʊn-tē ˌhən-tər/ noun

A private individual, often licensed in certain jurisdictions, who captures fugitives for a monetary reward (bounty), typically in cases where a bail bond has been forfeited.

Example 1: The bounty hunter tracked the fugitive across state lines.

Example 2: Not all states allow bounty hunters to operate without direct law enforcement oversight.

Brady Material

/ˈbrā-dē mə-ˈtir-ē-əl/ noun

Exculpatory or impeaching evidence that is favorable to the defense and must be disclosed by the prosecution.

Example 1: The prosecutor failed to turn over Brady Material, resulting in a mistrial.

Example 2: Withholding Brady Material violates due process rights.

See *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963).

Branch (Incident Command System)

/branch/ noun

A major organizational level within the Incident Command System (ICS) that has functional or geographic responsibility for a portion of the overall incident. Branches are overseen by a Branch Director and may include groups or divisions.

Example 1: A medical branch and logistics branch were established at the disaster scene.

Example 2: Branches improve command span and coordination in large-scale incidents.

Breach of Contract

/'brēch əv 'kän-,trakt/ noun

The violation of any agreed-upon terms in a legally binding contract, whether written or oral, without lawful excuse. This can lead to civil liability for damages or specific performance.

Example 1: The city filed a lawsuit for breach of contract after the vendor failed to deliver the radios.

Example 2: Officers were called when a dispute over breach of contract escalated into a physical altercation.

Breach of Duty

/'brēch əv 'dyü-tē/ noun

The failure to fulfill a legal or ethical obligation owed to another party,

especially in professional or fiduciary relationships. Often a key element in negligence claims.

Example 1: The plaintiff alleged that the officer's inaction constituted a breach of duty.

Example 2: A breach of duty by a public servant may lead to both civil and administrative consequences.

Breach of Peace

/'brēch əv 'pēs/ noun

An unlawful disturbance or act that disrupts public tranquility or order, such as fighting, excessive noise, or tumultuous behavior. Often cited under disorderly conduct statutes.

Example 1: The individual was cited for breach of peace after yelling obscenities in the park.

Example 2: Officers arrested several protesters for breach of peace during the demonstration.

Breach of Promise

/'brēch əv 'prä-məs/ noun

A now-rare civil cause of action for the failure to fulfill a promise to marry, resulting in damages to the jilted party.

Example 1: In the past, breach of promise claims were common in engagement disputes.

Example 2: The state abolished breach of promise lawsuits as part of tort reform.

Breach of Trust

/ˈbrɛʃ əv ˈtrəst/ noun

The misuse or mismanagement of assets or authority entrusted to an individual, especially in fiduciary or official positions. Often overlaps with embezzlement or official misconduct.

Example 1: The audit uncovered a breach of trust involving public grant funds.

Example 2: Breach of trust by law enforcement personnel erodes community confidence.

Breach of Warranty

/ˈbrɛʃ əv ˈwɒ-rən-tē/ noun

The failure of a product or service to meet the terms or assurances explicitly or implicitly promised by the seller. Governed by the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).

Example 1: The department returned the defective equipment under breach of warranty provisions.

Example 2: A breach of warranty claim may entitle the buyer to repairs, replacement, or refund.

Break into

/ˈbræk ˌɪn-(,)tū/ verb

To enter a residence, vehicle, or business unlawfully, typically by force or stealth, often with intent to commit a crime such as theft.

Example 1: Do you have any idea who would have broken into your car?

Example 2: The suspect was caught attempting to break into a closed storefront.

Breaking and Entering

/ˈbrā-kiŋ ənd ˈen-tə-riŋ/ noun

The criminal offense of forcibly entering a structure without permission, typically to commit a felony or theft therein. May be categorized differently by state law (e.g., burglary).

Example 1: The homeowner reported a case of breaking and entering after finding the door ajar.

Example 2: Officers responded to an alarm signaling breaking and entering at a warehouse.

Breathalyzer (See figure next page)

/ˈbre-thə-ˌlī-zər/ noun

A device used by law enforcement to estimate blood alcohol concentration (BAC) from a breath sample. The instrument measures the amount of alcohol in the breath and calculates an approximate BAC, which is used to assess impairment and enforce DUI laws. Results from breathalyzers may be used as evidence in court, though their admissibility depends on proper calibration, administration, and compliance with statutory procedures.

Example 1: The officer administered a breathalyzer at the scene to determine if the driver was over the legal limit.

Example 2: Defense counsel challenged the breathalyzer results due to questions about the device's calibration and maintenance records.



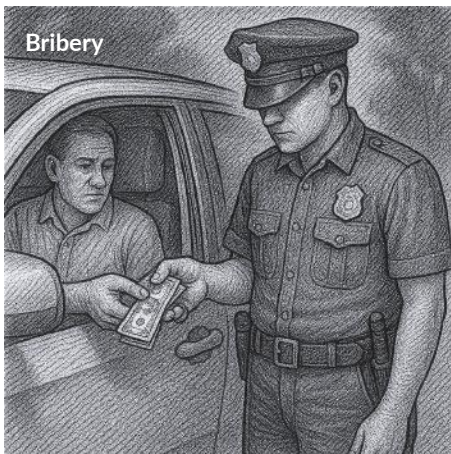
Bribe

/'brīb/ noun

Something of value offered, given, or received to influence the actions of an official or other person in a position of trust.

Example 1: The suspect attempted to offer a bribe to avoid a DUI arrest.

Example 2: Accepting a bribe is grounds for termination and prosecution.



Bribery

/'brī-b(ə-)rē/ noun

The act of offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting something of value as a means to influence the actions of an individual in a public or private

role. Defined as a criminal offense under both state and federal laws.

Example 1: The officer was indicted for bribery after accepting money from a known drug dealer.

Example 2: Bribery charges can result in both prison time and permanent disqualification from public office.

Brick

/'brik/ noun

1. Slang for a handheld, portable two-way radio, commonly referred to as a "handie-talkie," used by law enforcement officers in the field.

Example 1: The rookie forgot to charge his brick before the shift began.

Example 2: All officers were instructed to carry their brick during the parade detail.

2. A slang term used in narcotics enforcement to describe a large, compacted quantity of cocaine, typically weighing approximately one kilogram (2.2 pounds) and often packaged in a rectangular, brick-like shape. The term is commonly encountered during drug trafficking investigations and undercover operations.

Example 1: The task force intercepted a shipment containing three bricks of cocaine hidden in the vehicle's trunk.

Example 2: During the controlled buy, the informant negotiated the purchase of a single brick of cocaine from the suspect.

Bridge Bank

/'briːj ,bɑːŋk/ noun

A temporary national bank organized by federal authorities, such as the FDIC, to assume the deposits and certain liabilities of a failed bank. Its purpose is to maintain critical banking functions and ensure continued service to customers.

Example 1: After the regional bank's collapse, a bridge bank was formed to protect depositors.

Example 2: The FDIC managed the transition through a bridge bank to prevent economic disruption.

Bridge Point

/'briːj ,pɔɪnt/ noun

A designated location or juncture used to coordinate the transition of personnel, equipment, or command authority in emergency response or tactical operations.

Example 1: The SWAT team rendezvoused at the bridge point before deploying to the inner perimeter.

Example 2: Command designated the intersection as the bridge point for all incoming mutual aid.

Brief

/'brɛf/ noun

A concise summary or report, often oral or written, provided to inform personnel of operational plans, legal arguments, or situational updates. In law, also refers to a formal written argument submitted to a court.

Example 1: Officers attended a pre-shift brief covering patrol assignments and wanted subjects.

Example 2: The prosecutor submitted a legal brief outlining opposition to the motion to suppress.

Bright Line

/'brɪt ,lɪn/ noun

A clearly defined legal rule or standard that is unambiguous and consistently applied. Often referenced in constitutional law to distinguish lawful from unlawful conduct.

Example 1: The court established a bright line rule requiring a warrant for GPS tracking.

Example 2: Bright line rules help officers apply constitutional standards without guesswork.

Bring

/'brɪŋ/ verb

To cause a person or object to come along or be present at a particular place or proceeding, such as bringing evidence to court or bringing a suspect into custody.

Example 1: The officer was instructed to bring the evidence to the crime lab.

Example 2: Detectives will bring the witness in for a follow-up interview.

Broker

/'brō-kər/ noun

A person or firm that acts as an intermediary between buyers and sellers, often in the context of finance, insurance, or real estate. In criminal law, may appear in fraud,

insider trading, or unlicensed activity cases.

Example 1: The suspect posed as a broker to defraud multiple elderly victims.

Example 2: Investigators subpoenaed records from the broker suspected of facilitating illegal trades.

Broker Association

/ˈbrō-kər ə-,sō-sē-ā-shən/ noun

An organized group or entity composed of licensed brokers, often for mutual support, advocacy, or industry regulation.

Example 1: The broker association issued a statement condemning fraudulent real estate practices.

Example 2: Officers attended a meeting hosted by the local broker association to address property scams.

Brokerage

/ˈbrō-k(ə-)rij/ noun

A business or service involving the arrangement of transactions between buyers and sellers for a commission. In investigations, it may be relevant in white-collar or securities fraud cases.

Example 1: The brokerage was under investigation for manipulating stock prices.

Example 2: Officers obtained a warrant to search the brokerage's financial records.

Bronx Roll

/ˈbrəŋks ˈrōl/ noun

Colloquial term for the failure to come to a complete stop at a stop sign, often referred to as a "California stop."

Example 1: The officer issued a citation for a Bronx roll at the intersection.

Example 2: Bronx rolls are a common infraction in high-traffic residential areas.

Brought to Trial

/ˈbrōt tə ˈtri(-ə)l/ verb phrase

The process of formally initiating a trial in court following arraignment and pretrial procedures, whereby the accused faces charges before a judge or jury.

Example 1: The defendant was brought to trial for felony assault.

Example 2: The case was delayed but eventually brought to trial after new evidence emerged.

Brownfield

/ˈbraʊn-,fēld/ noun

A property or site that has been previously used for industrial or commercial purposes and may be contaminated by hazardous substances, complicating redevelopment. May involve law enforcement in environmental crimes or code enforcement.

Example 1: Investigators evaluated the brownfield site for illegal dumping of toxic waste.

Example 2: The city secured grants to rehabilitate several brownfield locations into housing.

Brush Truck

/ˈbrəʃ ˌtræk/ noun

A 4 x 4 truck that is light enough to respond to fires in areas like forests or fields that are difficult to access with conventional fire engines.

Example 1: The brush truck was the only vehicle available to fight the forest fire.

Example 2: The brush truck was able to enter the wetland to fight the grass fire.

Bucket Shop

/ˈbə-kæt ˌʃäp/ noun

A business engaged in illegal or deceptive securities trading practices, often by accepting bets on stock prices without actual market transactions.

Example 1: Federal agents raided a bucket shop operating as a phony investment firm.

Example 2: Victims of the bucket shop lost thousands in untraceable "stock" purchases.

Bucketing

/ˈbə-kə-tɪŋ/ noun

An illegal trading practice where a broker confirms a transaction with a client but fails to execute it on the exchange, instead betting against the client's trade.

Example 1: The broker was charged with bucketing after multiple clients reported missing trades.

Example 2: Regulatory agencies monitor for bucketing to protect investor integrity.

Budget

/ˈbə-jət/ noun

A financial plan outlining projected income and expenditures over a specified period, used to allocate resources in law enforcement agencies and government departments.

Example 1: The department submitted its annual budget proposal to city council.

Example 2: Budget constraints led to reduced overtime and equipment upgrades.

Bullying

/ˈbù-lē-ɪŋ/ noun

Repeated, inappropriate, and often abusive behavior directed by one or more individuals toward another person or group, characterized by a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying can occur in schools, workplaces, and within organizational structures, including law enforcement agencies.

Example 1: The department instituted an anti-bullying policy after several complaints of harassment.

Example 2: Supervisory bullying undermines morale and violates professional conduct standards.

Burden of Proof (Criminal Standard)

/ˈbər-dʰən əv ˈprüf/ noun

The legal obligation of the prosecution in a criminal trial to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. This high standard reflects the fundamental presumption of innocence.

Example 1: The jury acquitted the defendant, finding the burden of proof had not been met.

Example 2: Prosecutors must present compelling evidence to meet the criminal burden of proof.

In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358 (1970).

Intimate Partners or Family or Household Members

/ˈin-tə-mət ˈpär(t)-nərz ˈfa-mə-lē ˈhous-ˌhöld ˈmem-bərz/ noun

A classification used in domestic violence statutes and protective orders to include spouses, domestic partners, individuals with a child in common, persons in a dating relationship, cohabitants, and those related by blood, adoption, or legal custody.

Example 1: The restraining order applied to all intimate partners or household members.

Example 2: Officers must determine if the parties qualify as family or household members for charging decisions.

Intruder

/in-ˈtrü-dər/ noun

A person who enters a structure without permission, often with the intent to commit a crime.

Example 1: Police responded to a 911 call about an intruder on the third floor.

Example 2: The intruder fled when confronted by the homeowner.

Inventory

/ˈin-vən-ˌtôr-ē/ noun

Administrative searches conducted by law enforcement to catalog items in a vehicle or property taken into custody, ensuring the protection of property and guarding against false claims. Must follow standardized departmental policy.

Example 1: The officer conducted an inventory of the impounded vehicle per policy.

Example 2: Evidence found during inventories may be admissible if the procedure is properly followed.

See *Colorado v. Bertine*, 479 U.S. 367 (1987).

Inventory Search

/ˈin-vən-ˌtôr-ē ˈsərch/ noun

A procedural administrative search of property or a vehicle conducted by law enforcement following arrest and before incarceration or impoundment, to account for items and protect against claims of loss.

Example 1: The officer found contraband during an inventory search of the suspect's vehicle.

Example 2: Inventory searches must follow policy and cannot be a pretext for criminal investigation.



Investigation

/in-ˌves-tə-ˈgā-shən/ noun

The systematic collection, preservation, and analysis of facts and evidence to identify and prosecute criminal activity or resolve an incident.

Example 1: Detectives opened an investigation into the officer-involved shooting.

Example 2: Thorough investigations rely on witness interviews and forensic analysis.

Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act

/in-ˌves-tə-ˈgā-tiv ə-ˈsis-təns fər ˈvī-ə-lənt ˈkrīmz ˈakt/ noun

A U.S. federal statute (Public Law 112–265) allowing the FBI to assist in violent crime and mass killing investigations at the request of state or local authorities, even without federal jurisdiction.

Example 1: The FBI joined the investigation under the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act.

Example 2: This Act supports interagency collaboration in high-profile or mass casualty cases.

Investigative Services

/in-ˌves-tə-ˈgā-tiv ˈsər-və-səz/ noun

A division within a police agency responsible for conducting specialized or complex investigations, including violent crimes, narcotics, financial crimes, and special victims cases.

Example 1: Investigative Services launched a task force on organized retail theft.

Example 2: Officers in Investigative Services work closely with prosecutors and analysts.

Investigatory Detention / Investigative Detention

/in-ˌves-tə-gə-ˈtôr-ē di-ˈten(t)-shən/ noun

A brief, lawful stop of a person by police based on reasonable suspicion that the person is involved in criminal activity. It must be limited in scope and duration.

Example 1: The officer initiated an investigatory detention based on a matching suspect description.

Example 2: Investigatory detentions require articulable facts, not mere hunches.

See *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1 (1968).

Inviolability

/in-ˌvī-ə-ˈla-bə-lə-tē/ noun

A principle of international law that protects certain diplomatic and consular officials from arrest, detention, or the entry of police into their premises, vehicles, or residences.

Example 1: The diplomat claimed inviolability during the traffic stop.

Example 2: Officers must notify the U.S. State Department when dealing with individuals who may have inviolability.

Involuntary Commitment

/in-ˈvāl-ən-ˌter-ē kə-ˈmit-mənt/ noun

A legal process by which individuals with serious mental illness may be court-ordered into psychiatric care without their consent if they pose a danger to themselves or others.

Example 1: The subject was placed under involuntary commitment after repeated suicide threats.

Example 2: Involuntary commitment requires judicial authorization and medical evaluation.

Involuntary Manslaughter

/in-'vāl-ən-ˌter-ē 'man-ˌslō-tər/ noun

The unintentional killing of another person due to reckless or criminally negligent behavior, without premeditation or intent to kill.

Example 1: The suspect was charged with involuntary manslaughter after the fatal DUI crash.

Example 2: Involuntary manslaughter differs from murder due to lack of intent.

Involuntary Transportation

/in-'vāl-ən-ˌter-ē trans-pər-'tā-shən/ noun

The act of transporting an individual without their consent, typically for purposes such as psychiatric evaluation, emergency detention, or custodial arrest. This must be supported by legal authority, such as probable cause or a court order.

Example 1: The individual was subject to involuntary transportation under a mental health hold due to suicidal behavior.

Example 2: Officers must ensure proper documentation and justification when initiating involuntary transportation.

See *Hayes v. Florida*, 470 U.S. 811 (1985).
Dunaway v. New York, 442 U.S. 200 (1979)

Involved Officer(s)

/in-'vòlvd 'ò-fə-sərz/ noun

Sworn officers who were directly involved in or witnessed a serious incident while on or off duty. May include those who discharged weapons, applied force, or were present at critical moments.

Example 1: All involved officers were placed on administrative leave pending investigation.

Example 2: Body camera footage from the involved officers was collected for review.

Iron

/ˈī-ərn/ noun (slang)

Colloquial slang term for a firearm, often used in street language or officer vernacular.

Example 1: The suspect was found carrying an unregistered iron.

Example 2: Officers are trained to recognize slang like "iron" in informant debriefings.

Irresistible Impulse Test

/ˌir-i-'zīs-tə-bəl 'im-ˌpəls 'test/ noun

A legal standard used in some jurisdictions to determine insanity, based on whether a defendant was unable to control their actions due to a mental illness, despite understanding the act was wrong.

Example 1: The defense raised the Irresistible Impulse Test to argue diminished capacity.

Example 2: This test supplements other insanity defenses like the M'Naghten Rule.

Isolation

/ˌī-sə-'lā-shən/ noun

The separation of individuals who are confirmed to be infected with a

communicable disease from those who are not infected, in order to prevent further transmission.

Example 1: The officer was placed in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19.

Example 2: Isolation protocols are vital in managing outbreaks within detention facilities.



Jack

/ˈjak/ noun, slang

A colloquial term used to refer to a police officer or, in some contexts, an informant. Usage varies by region and subculture, and it is generally informal or derogatory.

Example 1: The suspect kept looking around nervously, thinking a jack might be tailing him.

Example 2: In the report, the confidential jack provided key information about the gang's movements

JAG

/ˈjag/ noun

Acronym for Judge Advocate General, the legal branch or department within a military organization responsible for military justice and legal services.

Example 1: The soldier consulted with a JAG officer about the upcoming court-martial.

Example 2: The JAG reviewed the evidence to determine whether charges should be filed.

Jail

/ˈjāl/ noun

A facility used for the confinement of individuals accused of crimes and awaiting trial or sentencing, or those serving short-term sentences, typically under one year.

Example 1: The suspect was booked into the county jail pending arraignment.

Example 2: Overcrowding in the city jail has become a major concern for the sheriff's department.

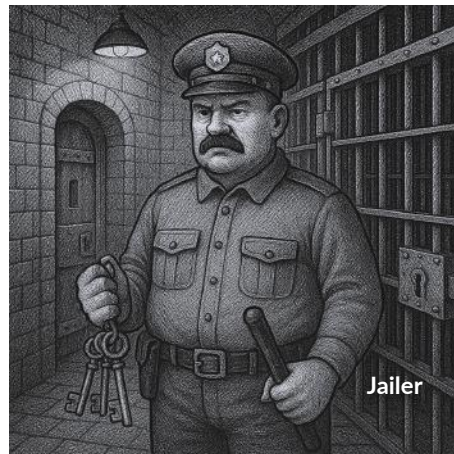
Jailer

/ˈjā-lər/ noun

An official responsible for the custody, supervision, and safety of inmates within a jail facility.

Example 1: The jailer conducted routine checks every thirty minutes.

Example 2: Training programs for jailers emphasize safety and inmate rights.



Jailitis

/jāl-ī-tās/ noun

A slang term used by law enforcement to describe the sudden onset of exaggerated or fabricated medical symptoms exhibited by a suspect at the moment of arrest, often in an attempt to avoid incarceration or gain leniency.

Example 1: The suspect complained of chest pains only after being cuffed—classic case of jailitis.

Example 2: Officers are trained to distinguish between true medical emergencies and jailitis during bookings.

Jane Doe

/ˈjān ˈdō/ noun

A placeholder name used for an unidentified female individual, especially in legal actions or law enforcement reports. The male equivalent is "John Doe."

Example 1: The remains were initially listed under the name Jane Doe until identification was confirmed.

Example 2: A restraining order was filed on behalf of Jane Doe due to safety concerns.

JDLR

/ˈjē-ˈdē-ˈel-ˈär/ expression

Acronym for "Just Don't Look Right," used by law enforcement to describe situations or behaviors that appear suspicious or out of place, often triggering further investigation based on experience or instinct.

Example 1: The car parked outside the closed business just JDLR to the patrol officer.

Example 2: Trusting his gut, the deputy investigated the JDLR situation and uncovered a burglary in progress.

Jeopardy

/ˈje-pər-dē/ noun

In legal context, refers to the risk of conviction and punishment that a defendant faces once formally charged and put on trial. Double jeopardy, the constitutional protection against being tried twice for the same offense, is grounded in the Fifth Amendment.

Example 1: Once the jury was sworn, the defendant was placed in legal jeopardy.

Example 2: Double jeopardy prohibited a second trial on the same charges after acquittal.

JFO (See Joint Field Office)

JHO

/ˈjē-ˈäch-ˈō/ noun

Acronym for Judicial Hearing Officer, an appointed or elected official authorized to conduct hearings, rule on motions, and perform other judicial functions under the supervision of a court.

Example 1: The JHO presided over the preliminary hearing in traffic court.

Example 2: Judicial Hearing Officers help manage court backlogs efficiently.

JIC (See Joint Information Center)

JIS (See Joint Information System)

JIATF

/ˈjē-ˈī-ˈā-tē-ˈef/ noun

Acronym for Joint Interagency Task Force, a collaborative task force composed of members from multiple U.S. government agencies and military units, often focused on issues such as narcotics or terrorism.

Example 1: JIATF South led the investigation into maritime drug trafficking.

Example 2: The JIATF included analysts from both civilian and military backgrounds.

JIT

/ˈjit/ noun

Acronym for Joint Investigation Team, a team composed of investigators from different jurisdictions or agencies working together on a common case, often under international frameworks.

Example 1: A JIT was formed to investigate the cross-border trafficking network.

Example 2: JIT coordination was essential for managing evidence collection across countries.

JNET

/ˈjē-net/ noun

Acronym for Justice Network, typically referring to a secure digital infrastructure used by law enforcement and judicial systems to access and exchange information.

Example 1: Officers used JNET to verify the subject's criminal history.

Example 2: The upgrade to the Justice Network improved system reliability and response time.

JO

/ˈjē-ˈō/ noun

Acronym for Judicial Officer, a broad term encompassing judges, magistrates, hearing officers, and other individuals empowered to carry out judicial functions.

Example 1: The JO reviewed the arrest warrant for probable cause.

Example 2: A Judicial Officer must remain impartial in all proceedings.

John Doe

/ˈjān ˈdō/ noun

A placeholder name used to identify an unknown or anonymous male in legal proceedings or police reports. The female counterpart is "Jane Doe."

Example 1: The court granted a temporary restraining order in favor of John Doe.

Example 2: Forensic analysts worked to identify the remains listed under John Doe.

Joinder

/ˈjōin-dər/ noun

The legal uniting of two or more parties, claims, or charges into a single proceeding to enhance judicial efficiency and consistency.

Example 1: The prosecutor filed a motion for joinder of the robbery and burglary charges.

Example 2: Joinder of defendants was appropriate due to their shared criminal enterprise.

Joint Field Office (JFO)

/ˈjɔɪnt fɛld ˈä-fəs/ noun

The primary Federal incident management field structure used during major disaster responses. It serves as a temporary centralized coordination point for federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental partners.

Example 1: FEMA established a JFO in the flood-affected region.

Example 2: The JFO hosted daily briefings with all response stakeholders.

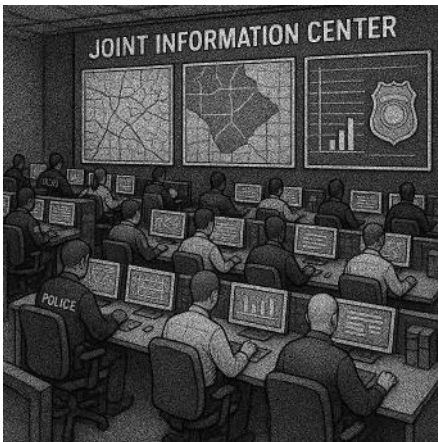
Joint Information Center (JIC)

/ˈjɔɪnt ˌɪn-fər-ˈmā-shən ˈsen-tər/ noun

A centralized location for the coordination of public information activities during a major incident or emergency. Representatives from all participating agencies work together to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.

Example 1: The JIC released a unified press statement after the incident.

Example 2: Media queries were routed through the Joint Information Center for accuracy.



Joint Information System (JIS)

/ˈjɔɪnt ˌɪn-fər-ˈmā-shən ˈsi-stəm/ noun

An organized structure for integrating public affairs operations during emergencies, enabling the delivery of timely and accurate information to the public across agencies.

Example 1: The JIS helped manage the flow of updates during the wildfire response.

Example 2: Training on the Joint Information System is required for all PIOs.

Joint Possession

/ˈjɔɪnt pə-ˈze-shən/ noun

A legal concept in which multiple individuals can be deemed to possess the same object if each has knowledge of and the intent and ability to control it.

Example 1: Both occupants were charged due to joint possession of the firearm in the vehicle.

Example 2: The court found joint possession based on the shared control and knowledge of the contraband.

Joint Trial

/ˈjɔɪnt ˈtri-əl/ noun

A legal proceeding in which two or more defendants or charges are tried together due to common elements, such as shared facts or co-conspirators.

Example 1: The court approved a joint trial for the co-defendants in the fraud case.

Example 2: Joint trials can improve judicial efficiency but raise concerns over prejudice.

JP

/ˈjē-ˈpē/ noun

Acronym for Justice of the Peace, a judicial officer with authority to perform legal duties such as issuing warrants, handling minor offenses, or officiating civil ceremonies.

Example 1: The officer obtained a search warrant signed by the local JP.

Example 2: The JP conducted arraignments in the rural courthouse.

Judge

/ˈjəj/ noun

A public official appointed or elected to preside over court proceedings, interpret and apply the law, rule on motions and objections, issue orders, and render decisions in legal disputes. Judges may oversee criminal, civil, family, or administrative matters, and in criminal cases, they ensure due process and may impose sentences following a conviction.

Example 1: The judge ruled that the evidence was inadmissible due to a Fourth Amendment violation.

Example 2: After hearing arguments from both sides, the judge granted the motion to dismiss.

Judge's Instructions

/ˈjəj-əz in-ˈstrək-shənz/ noun

The set of legal guidelines provided by a judge to a jury before deliberation, explaining the applicable laws and standards of proof.

Example 1: The verdict hinged on how the jury interpreted the judge's instructions.

Example 2: The prosecutor objected to a proposed change in the judge's instructions.

Judge pro tempore (pro tem)

/ˈjəj prō ˈtem-pə-ˌrē/ noun

A temporary judge appointed to serve in place of a regular judge for a limited period or for a specific proceeding. While presiding, a judge pro tempore exercises the full authority and responsibilities of a permanent judge, including ruling on motions, conducting trials, and rendering judgments. These appointments are typically made to manage judicial absences, conflicts of interest, or caseload overflow, and may involve senior attorneys, retired judges, or others qualified under state or local court rules.

Example 1: Due to the presiding judge's medical leave, an experienced attorney was appointed as a judge pro tempore for the trial.

Example 2: The judge pro tempore ruled on the evidentiary objections during the preliminary hearing.

Judgment

/ˈjəj-mənt/ noun

The final decision of a court resolving the main issues in a legal proceeding and establishing the rights and obligations of the parties.

Example 1: The court entered judgment in favor of the plaintiff.

Example 2: A default judgment was issued when the defendant failed to appear.

Judicial Notice

/jōō-'di-shəl 'nō-təs/ noun

A rule in which a court recognizes certain facts as universally known or authoritatively established without requiring formal evidence.

Example 1: The judge took judicial notice of the fact that July 4th is a federal holiday.

Example 2: Judicial notice was granted for the city's zoning map.

Judiciary

/jōō-'di-shē-,er-ē/ noun

The branch of government responsible for interpreting laws and administering justice through courts and judges.

Example 1: The judiciary must remain independent from political influence.

Example 2: Reforms to the judiciary were proposed to enhance public trust.

Jurisdiction

/jər-əs-'dik-shən/ noun

The legal authority of a court or agency to hear and decide cases, enforce laws, or operate within a defined geographic or subject-matter scope.

Example 1: The incident occurred outside our jurisdiction.

Example 2: Federal jurisdiction was invoked due to interstate elements.

Jury

/'jür-ē/ noun

A body of citizens selected according to law from the community to hear evidence in a

trial, determine the facts, apply the law as instructed by the judge, and render a verdict. In criminal cases, juries typically consist of six members for simple misdemeanor trials and twelve members for felony or complex misdemeanor trials. Courts often appoint one or more alternate jurors to replace any regular jurors who are unable to continue, ensuring that the trial may proceed without restarting. The right to a trial by jury in criminal cases is guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Example 1: The defendant exercised his constitutional right to be tried by a jury of his peers.

Example 2: Due to the length of the trial, the judge selected two alternate jurors in case anyone had to be excused.



Jury Nullification

/'jür-ē ,nəl-ə-fə-'kā-shən/ noun

The act of a jury delivering a not guilty verdict despite believing the

Juvenile

defendant is legally guilty, based on a disagreement with the law itself or a belief that its application would lead to an unjust outcome. While juries possess the de facto power to nullify, this is not an officially sanctioned right, and judges typically instruct jurors to apply the law as given. Nevertheless, a jury's acquittal—regardless of motivation—is final, and jurors cannot be punished for reaching their decision.

Example 1: The defense subtly appealed to the jury's sense of fairness, hoping for jury nullification in light of the harsh mandatory sentence.

Example 2: Although the judge reiterated the need to follow the law, the jury's verdict suggested a quiet act of jury nullification.

See *United States v. Dougherty*, 473 F.2d 1113 (D.C. Cir. 1972).

criminal offense if committed by an adult.

Example 1: The juvenile delinquent was placed in a diversion program.

Example 2: Counseling and probation were part of the delinquent's sentence.

Juvenile

/ˈjü-və-,nīl/ noun

An individual who is under the age of 18, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of a juvenile court. The term is often used interchangeably with “child” in legal contexts.

Example 1: The juvenile was released to parental custody pending a court hearing.

Example 2: Juvenile offenses are handled in a separate court system focused on rehabilitation.

Juvenile Delinquent

/ˈjü-və-,nīl di-ˈlɪŋ-kwənt/ noun

A minor who has been adjudicated by a juvenile court to have committed an act that would be a



K-9 Jacket

/ˈkɑ ˈnɪn ˈja-kæt/ noun

A specially designed protective garment worn by police dogs during duty assignments. These jackets may provide ballistic protection, visibility markings, cooling technology, or identification features to assist in operational effectiveness and safety.

Example 1: The K-9 jacket protected the dog from injury during the tactical entry.

Example 2: Officers outfitted the patrol dog with a K-9 jacket labeled “Police K-9” for visibility and identification.

K-9

/ˈkɑ ˈnɪn/ noun

A trained police dog used in law enforcement operations such as tracking, narcotics detection, apprehension, and search and rescue. The term is a homophone of “canine” and commonly used in police parlance.

Example 1: The K-9 detected narcotics hidden in the suspect’s vehicle.



Example 2: The department’s K-9 was instrumental in locating the missing child.

K9 Sniff

/ˈkɑ ˈnɪn snɪf/ noun

The investigative use of a trained law enforcement dog to detect the presence of narcotics, explosives, currency, or other specific contraband through olfactory cues. When conducted on property such as luggage or a vehicle, a K9 sniff is generally not considered a “search” under the Fourth Amendment if it does not intrude upon a reasonable expectation of privacy. However, the duration and context of the sniff—such as a prolonged traffic stop—may implicate constitutional concerns.

Example 1: The officer conducted a lawful K9 sniff around the exterior of the vehicle during a routine traffic stop.

Example 2: The K9 sniff alerted on the suitcase, prompting officers to seek a search warrant before opening it.

See *Illinois v. Caballes*, 543 U.S. 405 (2005); *Florida v. Jardines*, 569 U.S. 1 (2013).

K9 Unit

/ˈkɑ ˈnɪn ˈyü-nət/ noun

A law enforcement team composed of trained police dogs and their certified human handlers. These units are deployed for specialized functions including patrol, detection, suspect apprehension, and public demonstrations.

Example 1: The K9 Unit was dispatched to search the wooded area for the fleeing suspect.

Example 2: During the school visit, the K9 Unit conducted a drug detection demonstration.

Kalkines Warning

/ˈkal-,kɪn(z) ˈwɔr-nɪŋ/ noun

A warning issued to federal employees under internal investigation, informing them that they must answer questions related to their official duties or face disciplinary action, but that their statements cannot be used in criminal prosecution. Derived from *United States v. Kalkines*, 473 F.2d 1391 (Ct. Cl. 1973).

Example 1: The OIG agent issued a Kalkines Warning before beginning the administrative interview.

Example 2: The Kalkines Warning protects employees from criminal self-incrimination while ensuring cooperation in internal matters.

Key Employee

/ˈkē əm-ˈploi-ē/ noun

An individual ranked among the highest-paid 10 percent of employees within a governmental agency or organization, often designated for specific administrative or strategic purposes.

Example 1: As a key employee, the officer was required to complete annual ethics training.

Example 2: Key employee status subjects individuals to heightened disclosure requirements.

Kidnapping

/ˈkid-,na-pɪŋ/ noun

The unlawful taking and holding of a person by force, threat, or deception, often to demand ransom or to commit further criminal acts. A serious felony offense under both state and federal law.

Example 1: The suspect was charged with kidnapping after forcibly transporting the victim across state lines.

Example 2: The Amber Alert was issued in response to a suspected kidnapping.

Kin

/ˈkin/ noun

Persons related by blood or marriage; in law enforcement contexts, typically refers to next of kin or immediate family members of a subject or victim.

Example 1: The officer notified the victim's next of kin following the accident.

Example 2: Proper kin notification protocols were followed after the in-custody death.

Kind

/ˈkɪnd/ noun

In incident management, a classification for resources—such as personnel or equipment—grouped based on shared function or capability. Used to distinguish resources of similar function but varying type or level.

Example 1: The deployment included various kinds of law enforcement units, including tactical and canine teams.

Example 2: The resource list categorized vehicles by kind and type for better coordination.

See *Wilson v. Arkansas*, 514 U.S. 927 (1995); *Hudson v. Michigan*, 547 U.S. 586 (2006).

Knock and Announce

/ˈnäk ən ə-ˈnaʊns/ verb

A procedural requirement mandating that law enforcement officers, before entering a private dwelling without the occupant's consent, must first knock, identify themselves as police, and state their purpose. This rule applies to entries with a warrant as well as certain exigent circumstances, such as medical emergencies, unless a specific exception to the knock-and-announce requirement exists. Exceptions include threats of violence, potential destruction of evidence, or futility. The principle is rooted in both common law and interpreted under the Fourth Amendment.

Example 1: The officers executed the search warrant by following the knock and announce protocol before entering the residence.

Example 2: Due to the credible threat of destruction of narcotics, the team bypassed knock and announce under the exigent circumstances exception.



Knock and Talk

/ˈnäk ənd ˈtɒk/ noun

A consensual law enforcement approach where officers knock on a residence's door and seek to engage the occupant in conversation without a warrant or exigent circumstances. This technique is lawful under the Fourth Amendment so long as it aligns with societal norms and does not escalate into a detention through coercive conduct or timing. Courts have emphasized that behavior exceeding what is socially acceptable—such as persistent knocking, visiting during late-night hours, or ignoring clear signage like “No Trespassing”—may transform a consensual encounter into a seizure requiring reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Example 1: The officers conducted a lawful knock and talk by approaching during daytime hours and leaving after the resident declined to answer.

Example 2: Pounding on the door at 4 a.m. turned the knock and talk into a detention, triggering Fourth Amendment scrutiny.

See *Florida v. Jardines*, 569 U.S. 1 (2013).

Kojak Light

/ˈkō-jak ˈlīt/ noun

A removable or magnetic blue or red police light used by officers in unmarked vehicles, named after the 1970s TV detective “Kojak.”

Example 1: The plainclothes officer activated the Kojak light before initiating the traffic stop.

Example 2: The suspect pulled over as soon as he saw the Kojak light in the rearview mirror.

MCC

/ˈem-ˈsē-ˈsē/ noun

Abbreviation for Major Cities Chiefs Association, a professional organization of police executives representing large urban law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada. The MCC facilitates the sharing of strategies, policy guidance, and advocacy on national policing issues.

Example 1: The MCC released new recommendations on handling mass casualty incidents.

Example 2: The police chief attended the annual MCC summit to discuss urban crime trends.

MCMIS

/ˈem-ˈsē-ˈem-ˈi-ˈes/ noun

Stands for Motor Carrier Management Information System, a federal database maintained by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to monitor commercial vehicle safety and regulatory compliance.

Example 1: Investigators checked the trucking company's record in MCMIS after the fatal crash.

Example 2: MCMIS data is used to identify high-risk carriers and guide enforcement efforts.

MCSA

/ˈem-ˈsē-ˈes-ˈā/ noun

Acronym for Major County Sheriffs' Association, an organization of elected sheriffs from the most populous counties in the U.S., dedicated to advancing law

enforcement standards, policy advocacy, and public safety collaboration.

Example 1: The sheriff joined MCSA to advocate for better federal support for border counties.

Example 2: MCSA provides a platform for large-county sheriffs to coordinate responses to national threats.

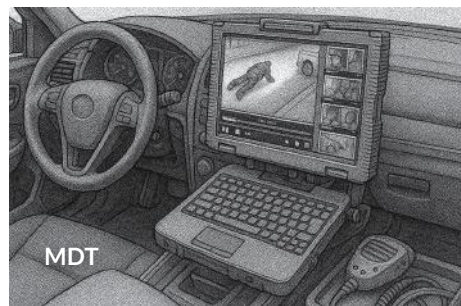
MDC/MDT/MCT (See figure below)

/ˈem-ˈdē-ˈsē/, /ˈem-ˈdē-ˈtē/, /ˈem-ˈsē-ˈtē/ noun

Acronyms for Mobile Data Computer, Mobile Data Terminal, or Mobile Computer Terminal—terms used interchangeably to describe the onboard computer systems installed in patrol vehicles. These systems enable real-time communication, access to law enforcement databases, and digital report writing.

Example 1: The officer used the MDC to check the suspect's criminal history during the traffic stop.

Example 2: All patrol units were upgraded with MCTs to streamline report submission and dispatch coordination.



Meat Wagon (See figure below)

/ˈmēt ˈwa-gən/ noun (slang)

Slang term referring to an ambulance or, less commonly, a coroner's van. Often used informally among first responders or in radio traffic.

Example 1: Dispatch sent a meat wagon to the scene of the multi-vehicle collision.

Example 2: The detective radioed for a meat wagon after discovering the deceased in the alley.

**Mechanic's Lien**

/mə-ˈka-niks ˈlēn/ noun

A legal claim created by statute that grants a contractor, laborer, or supplier the right to secure payment for services rendered or materials furnished in the improvement of real property. It attaches to the property and can potentially lead to foreclosure if not satisfied.

Example 1: The contractor filed a mechanic's lien after the property owner refused to pay for completed renovations.

Example 2: Law enforcement may become involved if a dispute over a mechanic's lien escalates to criminal allegations like fraud.

Media

/ˈmē-dē-ə/ noun

The physical or digital storage medium used to capture and retain audio, video, photographic, or data-based recordings. Media includes formats such as tapes, CDs, memory cards, body-worn cameras, and cloud-based files used in law enforcement investigations.

Example 1: The officer secured all digital media from the surveillance system as evidence.

Example 2: Chain of custody must be maintained when handling any form of media related to a case.

Medical Forensic Examiner

/ˈme-di-kəl fə-ˈren-sik ig-ˈza-mə-nər/ noun

A licensed healthcare professional, often a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), who performs medical forensic examinations on individuals who report sexual assault or abuse. The examiner collects physical evidence, documents injuries, and ensures the medical well-being of the patient while preserving legal integrity.

Example 1: The medical forensic examiner completed a sexual assault kit for submission to the crime lab.

Example 2: Coordination with a medical forensic examiner is crucial for trauma-informed victim response.

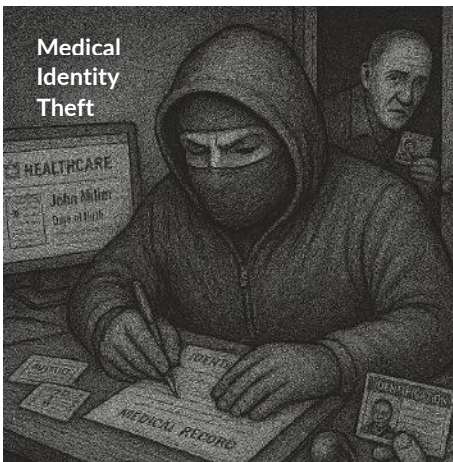
Medical Identity Theft (See figure below)

/ˈme-di-kəl ī-ˈden-tə-tē ˈtheft/ noun

The unauthorized use of another individual's personal identifying information, such as name or insurance number, to obtain medical services, prescriptions, or to file insurance claims. It can lead to inaccurate medical records and financial harm to the victim.

Example 1: Investigators uncovered a case of medical identity theft involving fraudulent billing under a deceased person's name.

Example 2: Victims of medical identity theft may face issues with incorrect treatment due to falsified records.



Medical Syndrome

/ˈme-di-kəl ˈsɪn-ˌdrōm/ noun

A set of symptoms and signs consistently observed together, indicating a particular medical condition or disorder, even if the exact cause is not fully understood. These syndromes are used in

diagnostics and treatment planning in both medical and forensic settings.

Example 1: The subject exhibited characteristics of a medical syndrome associated with substance withdrawal.

Example 2: Recognizing a medical syndrome can assist officers in differentiating between medical emergencies and behavioral issues.

Memorandum of Understanding

/ˌme-mə-ˈrən-dəm əv ˌən-dər-ˈstæn-dɪŋ/ noun

A formal agreement between two or more parties outlining the terms, roles, and expectations of a collaborative partnership, often used between law enforcement and external agencies. It is not legally binding but represents a mutual commitment to cooperation.

Example 1: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the police department and the local domestic violence shelter.

Example 2: MOUs help ensure clarity in jurisdiction and operational procedures during joint investigations.

Mens Rea

/ˈmɛnz ˈrē-ə/ noun

Latin for “guilty mind,” it denotes the mental state or intent a person must possess to be criminally liable for a crime. It is a foundational element in most criminal offenses.

Example 1: The prosecutor had to prove the defendant had the requisite mens rea for murder.

Example 2: Without mens rea, the act may not rise to the level of a crime.

Mental Abuse

/ˈmen-tʃl ə-ˈbyūs/ noun

A form of psychological maltreatment that involves the intentional infliction of emotional pain, distress, or trauma through verbal or nonverbal acts. Common in domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse cases, mental abuse may include threats, isolation, humiliation, or control.

Example 1: The victim described years of mental abuse that included manipulation and threats.

Example 2: Law enforcement must document signs of mental abuse as carefully as physical evidence.

Mental Health Crisis

/ˈmen-tʃl ˈhelth ˈkrī-səs/ noun

An acute situation in which an individual's usual coping mechanisms fail, leading to a significant disruption in emotional, physical, mental, and/or behavioral functioning. Law enforcement intervention may be necessary when the individual poses a danger to themselves or others.

Example 1: Officers responded to a mental health crisis involving a subject threatening self-harm.

Example 2: Training emphasizes de-escalation during mental health crises to ensure safety and care.

Mental Health Related Call

/ˈmen-tʃl ˈhelth ri-ˈlā-təd kɒl/ noun

An incident that necessitates police involvement due to the presence of a person experiencing a mental

health crisis or a situation involving mental health concerns. Such calls often require specialized response tactics and coordination with mental health professionals.

Example 1: The dispatcher categorized the incident as a mental health related call due to the caller's erratic behavior.

Example 2: Officers trained in crisis intervention were dispatched to the mental health related call.

Mental Health Services

/ˈmen-tʃl ˈhelth ˈsər-və-səz/ noun

Professional support and treatment provided by licensed mental health practitioners to address mental, emotional, and behavioral issues. These services may include counseling, psychiatric care, and crisis intervention.

Example 1: The department partners with local providers to ensure access to mental health services for officers and the community.

Example 2: Victims of trauma were referred to mental health services for ongoing support.

Mental Health Wellness Consultation

/ˈmen-tʃl ˈhelth ˈwel-nəs ˌkən(t)-səl-ˈtā-shən/ noun

A confidential session offered to employees, allowing them to engage with a licensed mental health professional of their choice to discuss personal well-being and mental health concerns. Typically used as a proactive resource within wellness programs.



Objection

/əb-'jek-shən/ noun

A formal protest raised during a trial by an attorney, challenging a question, statement, or procedure as improper under the rules of evidence or courtroom procedure. The judge then rules to either sustain or overrule the objection.

Example 1: The defense attorney raised an objection to the prosecutor's question, citing hearsay.

Example 2: An objection must be timely to preserve the issue for appeal.

Objectively Reasonable

/əb-'jek-tiv-lē 'rē-zə-nə-bəl/ adjective

A legal standard used to assess an officer's use of force based on what a reasonably prudent officer would do under the same or similar circumstances, considering the totality of information available at the time. Established in *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989).

Example 1: The use of force was deemed objectively reasonable given the suspect's aggressive behavior and proximity to a weapon.

Example 2: Officers must articulate why their actions were objectively reasonable in use-of-force reports.

Obscenity

/əb-'sē-nə-tē/ noun

Material or conduct that depicts sexual content in a manner that violates community standards and lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. Legally determined using the three-pronged test established in *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15 (1973).

Example 1: The prosecutor charged the store owner with distribution of obscenity based on the content of the videos.

Example 2: Officers must be familiar with local statutes defining obscenity before pursuing enforcement actions.

Obstruction of Justice

/əb-'stræk-shən əv 'jə-stəs/ noun

The act of willfully interfering with the administration and process of law enforcement or the judicial system, including actions such as lying to investigators, destroying evidence, or threatening witnesses. Defined under various state laws and 18 U.S.C. § 1503.

Example 1: The defendant was charged with obstruction of justice after attempting to bribe a juror.

Example 2: Any attempt to interfere with an ongoing investigation may be treated as obstruction of justice.

Occupancy

/'ä-kyə-pən(t)-sē/ noun

The act of residing in or taking possession of a structure, vehicle, or premises, either legally or

illegally. Often relevant in cases involving trespass, zoning, or safety codes.

Example 1: The fire inspector cited the building for exceeding its legal occupancy limit.

Example 2: Determining lawful occupancy is critical before enforcing eviction statutes.

Occupant

/ˈə-kyə-pənt/ noun

An individual who resides in, inhabits, or is otherwise present within a structure, vehicle, or premises, regardless of ownership or legal status.

Example 1: The officer verified the identities of all occupants of the vehicle during the traffic stop.

Example 2: Consent to search may be valid if given by an authorized occupant.

Off-Duty Employment

/ˈɒf-ˈdū-em-ˈplɔi-mənt/ noun

Any secondary job held by a law enforcement officer that does not involve the actual or perceived exercise of police authority. Often subject to agency approval and restrictions.

Example 1: The department prohibits off-duty employment in establishments that serve alcohol.

Example 2: Officers must report off-duty employment to ensure it does not create conflicts of interest.

Offense

/ə-ˈfɛn(t)s/ noun

A violation of criminal law, whether classified as an infraction, misdemeanor, or felony, for which legal penalties may be imposed. The term encompasses acts punishable under local, state, or federal law.

Example 1: The suspect was arrested for a felony offense involving aggravated assault.

Example 2: Each offense is recorded separately in the subject's criminal history.

Office of Professional Standards

/ˈä-fəs əv prə-ˈfe-sh(ə-)nəl ˈstan-dərdz/ noun

The internal or external unit responsible for overseeing law enforcement personnel conduct, policy compliance, and investigating allegations of misconduct or unethical behavior.

Example 1: The complaint was forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards for a full investigation.

Example 2: Transparency in the Office of Professional Standards reinforces public trust.

Officer

/ˈò-fə-sər/ noun

A sworn law enforcement employee authorized to enforce laws, maintain order, and perform public safety functions. Also referred to as a peace officer or police officer depending on jurisdiction.

Example 1: The officer initiated a traffic stop after observing a moving violation.

Example 2: Officers are expected to exercise discretion and uphold ethical standards.

Officer In Training (OIT)

/ˈô-fə-sər in ˈtrā-niŋ/ noun

A recently graduated academy recruit undergoing field training under the supervision of a veteran officer to develop practical policing skills.

Example 1: The Officer In Training was evaluated daily on decision-making and officer safety.

Example 2: All OITs must complete the field training program before receiving independent assignments.

Officer Involved Shooting (OIS)

/ˈô-fə-sər in-ˈvālvd ˈshü-tiŋ/ noun

Any incident in which a law enforcement officer intentionally discharges a firearm at a person during the course of their official duties. This definition excludes the use of a firearm against animals and typically triggers a formal investigation by internal affairs or an external agency.

Example 1: The department initiated an administrative review following an officer involved shooting.

Example 2: The officer was placed on administrative leave after the OIS was reported.

Officer Safety Detentions

/ˈô-fə-sər ˈsāf-tē di-ˈten(t)-shənz/ noun

A lawful temporary stop or restraint of an individual based not on suspicion of criminal activity, but on specific, articulable facts that suggest the individual may pose a threat to officer safety. Courts have upheld such detentions as reasonable under the Fourth Amendment when an individual's behavior or circumstances indicate potential danger, even absent direct criminal suspicion. These stops are frequently employed during high-risk scenarios or when dealing with persons closely associated with a suspect, such as lookouts, companions, or those lingering in suspicious proximity.

Example 1: The backup unit detained the individual acting as a lookout under an officer safety detention until the scene was secure.

Example 2: Though the man wasn't a suspect, his erratic approach with a concealed hand justified an officer safety detention.

See *Ryburn v. Huff*, 565 U.S. 469 (2012)

Official Acts of Immunity

/ə-ˈfī-shəl akts əv i-ˈmyü-nə-tē/ noun

A legal doctrine shielding government officials, including law enforcement officers, from civil liability for actions performed within the scope of their official duties, provided those actions do not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights. Often referenced in qualified immunity defenses.

Example 1: The court dismissed the lawsuit based on official acts of immunity.

Example 2: Official acts of immunity do not protect conduct that is clearly outside the bounds of lawful authority.

Official Misconduct

/ə-ˈfi-shəl mis-ˈkän-(,də)kt/ noun

The unlawful or improper conduct of a public official in the execution of their duties, typically involving abuse of power, corruption, or failure to perform legal obligations. Official misconduct is often a criminal offense under state statutes.

Example 1: The officer was charged with official misconduct for falsifying reports.

Example 2: A conviction for official misconduct can result in termination and decertification.

Old School

/ˈöld ,skül/ adjective

Refers to policing styles, tactics, or attitudes that are considered traditional, conventional, or resistant to modern reforms or community policing strategies. Often associated with a more rigid or authoritative approach.

Example 1: His old school approach emphasized street-level enforcement over community engagement.

Example 2: Some recruits admire the old school officers for their field experience and assertiveness.

On Board

/ˈän ˈbörd/ adjective

Informal term indicating that a person has alcohol or another

intoxicating substance present in their system. Commonly used during DUI investigations to describe an impaired condition.

Example 1: The suspect was clearly on board based on field sobriety results.

Example 2: The lab confirmed she was on board with a high level of THC.

On the Job

/ˈän thə ˈjäb/ idiomatic

Slang used among law enforcement to refer to active employment as a police officer. Also used to signify camaraderie and shared occupational experience.

Example 1: He's been on the job for over twenty years.

Example 2: Being on the job means you're always expected to be ready for anything.

On the Record

/ˈän thə ˈre-kərd/ adjective

A statement, report, or interaction that is officially documented and subject to disclosure or evidentiary use. In law enforcement, "on the record" refers to interviews, statements, or actions that are formal and potentially admissible.

Example 1: The officer reminded the witness that the interview was on the record.

Example 2: Being on the record means every word can be scrutinized in court.

One Hitter

/ˈwən ˈhi-tər/ noun

A small, typically cylindrical pipe designed to hold and consume a single inhalation ("hit") of a controlled substance, most commonly marijuana. Often concealed within a "dugout" container that stores both the pipe and a small quantity of the substance; the device is commonly used to facilitate discreet and measured drug use.

Example 1: During the search, officers located a one hitter concealed in a wooden dugout alongside suspected drug paraphernalia.

Example 2: The suspect admitted the one hitter was used earlier to smoke marijuana, though it no longer contained any residue.

Online Impersonation

/ˈæn-ˌlɪn ɪm-ˌpər-sə-ˈnā-shən/ noun

The act of using another person's identifying information to create fraudulent digital accounts, often with the intent to harm, harass, embarrass, or defraud. This can include posting unauthorized content or engaging in deceptive communication. Prohibited under various state and federal laws.

Example 1: The suspect was arrested for online impersonation after posing as his ex-girlfriend on social media.

Example 2: Online impersonation cases are increasingly common in domestic violence investigations.

Open Carry

/ˈō-pən ˈker-ē/ noun

The act of visibly carrying a firearm in public. Legality and restrictions of open carry vary by jurisdiction and may require a permit or have designated limitations.

Example 1: Open carry is permitted in the state but not inside government buildings.

Example 2: Officers are trained to approach open carry situations with heightened awareness.

Open Case

/ˈō-pən ˈkās/ noun

An active investigation or legal matter that has not yet been resolved or closed. In law enforcement, an open case typically requires continued investigative efforts or is awaiting prosecution.

Example 1: The detective was reassigned to assist with an open case involving a double homicide.

Example 2: The case remains open pending forensic results and witness interviews.

Open Container (See figure next page)

/ˈō-pən kən-ˈtā-nər/ noun

Refers to any bottle, can, or other receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage and that is open, has a broken seal, or has had its contents partially removed. Laws regulating open containers typically prohibit their presence in the passenger area of motor vehicles on public highways.

Example 1: The deputy cited the driver for an open container violation after spotting a half-empty beer can in the cupholder.

Example 2: Open container laws vary by jurisdiction, especially with regard to passengers and parked vehicles.



Open Fields

/ˈō-pən ˈfēldz/ noun

Areas of land that lie outside the protections of the Fourth Amendment, typically because they are not part of the home or its curtilage and do not carry a reasonable expectation of privacy. These include undeveloped land or agricultural fields, even if privately owned and fenced. Law enforcement may enter and observe open fields without a warrant or probable cause, and such entry does not constitute a Fourth Amendment “search,” even if it technically qualifies as trespassing under state law.

Example 1: The officers lawfully conducted surveillance of the marijuana grow operation located in the open fields behind the suspect’s property.

Example 2: Despite a “No Trespassing” sign, the detective entered the open field to investigate an anonymous tip, which was permissible under the open fields doctrine.

See *Oliver v. United States*, 466 U.S. 170 (1984).

Open Plea

/ˈō-pən plē/ noun

A plea of guilty or no contest entered by a defendant directly to the judge without the benefit of a plea agreement with the prosecution. The sentencing is left to the discretion of the court.

Example 1: The defendant entered an open plea, hoping the judge would impose a lighter sentence than the prosecutor recommended.

Example 2: Officers should document all case facts thoroughly, especially in cases that may result in open pleas.

Open Roads Policies

/ˈō-pən rōdz ˈpā-lə-sēz/ noun

Policies or protocols designed to minimize the duration of roadway closures by guiding first responders on efficient incident clearance, with the goal of reducing secondary collisions and traffic congestion.

Example 1: Open roads policies helped the agency reduce average highway closure times by over 30 minutes.

Example 2: Officers should be familiar with their jurisdiction’s open roads policies to balance investigation integrity and public safety.

Open Warrant

/ˈō-pən ˈwôr-ənt/ noun

An outstanding arrest warrant that remains unserved or unresolved, typically indicating that the subject has not yet been apprehended.

Example 1: The officer arrested the individual after discovering an open warrant during a routine traffic stop.

Example 2: Agencies should regularly audit open warrants to ensure timely enforcement and public safety.

Operating Under the Influence (OUI) (See figure below)

/ˈä-pə-ˈrā-tij ˈən-dər ðə ˈin-flü-ən(t)s/ noun

A criminal offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a combination thereof. Often used interchangeably with DUI or DWI, depending on jurisdiction.

Example 1: The suspect was charged with OUI after failing a field sobriety test and breathalyzer.

Example 2: Training for OUI detection includes drug recognition and standardized field sobriety testing.



Operation

/ˈä-pə-ˈrā-shən/ noun

A coordinated set of actions or procedures executed to achieve a specific law enforcement objective, such as a raid, surveillance, or tactical response.

Example 1: The multi-agency operation led to the recovery of stolen firearms and several arrests.

Example 2: Planning and debriefing are essential components of any successful law enforcement operation.

Operational Period

/ä-pə-ˈrā-sh(ə)nəl ˈpir-ē-əd/ noun

A defined timeframe during which specific incident objectives are to be accomplished, as outlined in the Incident Action Plan (IAP); typically 12 to 24 hours.

Example 1: The operational period for the wildfire response was extended due to changing weather conditions.

Example 2: Each operational period should begin with a briefing to align personnel with the updated IAP.

Operational Security (OPSEC)

/ä-pə-ˈrā-sh(ə)nəl ˈsek-yə-rə-tē/ noun

The practice of protecting sensitive information and activities from unauthorized disclosure to ensure the safety and effectiveness of operations involving intelligence, surveillance, undercover work, or tactical response.

Example 1: The team employed OPSEC measures to prevent exposure of the undercover operation.