

Safety in Civil Process

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Overview of the course

- Preparing before go out to the scene
- Safety during service
- What to do as you leave
- Best practices with body cameras

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Before you go to the scene

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Before you go out to the scene

- Check location – is it a high crime area?
- Check papers – are they in order and valid?
- Check people – were there prior police calls, possible criminal element residing next door or in near general area?
- Check route and area streets, alleys and other avenues of egress and regress

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Before you go out to the scene (cont.)

- Do you wear uniform?
- Double Edge Sword... YES and NO
- Yes ; it gives you more of a Command Presence.
- It clearly demonstrates that you are there in a lawful capacity.
- If things go south... you have a clear distinction as a “Peace Officer” so individual cannot state; “I didn't know who he was?”

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Arriving at the Scene

- Use tactics as you pull up
- Never park right in front – off center (unless you have no choice!)
- Do a drive by and recon the area.
- Use “Common Sense” if you are outnumbered by person(s) at location.

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During Service

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Safety & Force in Writs of Possession

- One of the most risky types of process to serve as an officer is a writ of possession.
- Due to this risk, a key decision is whether to use force when executing the writ, and how much force to use.
- Each office should determine, in conjunction with your county attorney, your policies and procedures in this area and adhere to them faithfully!

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Decision to Use Force

- What are some factors you use in determining appropriate use of force?
- What are the ways to ensure officer safety when using force in executing a writ of possession?

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Safety during service - Arrival

- Park car, leave door open
- Pull up in driveway
- Not wearing a vest or vest on seat
- Radio on dash or console
- What are your examples of what not to do?

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Safety During Service - Approach

- Always use tactics as you walk up
- Take a second or two ; when you start to approach the residence or business.
- Scan, Listen, and Be Prepared.
- Look for anything thing that was different than the last time you were at location i.e such as windows covered or wide open, additional or different vehicles at location, locked gates, other individuals at location

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Safety During Service - Service

- Use tactics as you make contact
- Look Sharp , Be Sharp – Professional Uniform Presence – always set the tone
- Verbalization and Tone of Voice
- “Know Your Job” Expertise in what you are doing and trying to accomplish goes a long way. “NEVER LIE OR B.S. individual(s) that you are dealing with.
- Do not challenge someone if you are not going to follow through

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Safety During Service - Actions

Never makes “Threats” of physical action or “Threats of arrest ; unless you are prepared to carry out your actions.

Be “Respectful” and “Steadfast” but not overbearing....

Always be professional start to finish!

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Safety During Service - Surroundings

Exterior Environment:

Know your coverage for emergencies

Yards / Fences, animals, walls and any other item that any interfere with safety

Man made booby-traps / obstacle's

Abandoned Property – Vehicles/Buses

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Safety During Service cont.

- Property (apartment, industrial, residential location)
- Quiet residence – Neighbor's that work at night, Sickly Elderly, Newborn Baby(s), Nosey Neighbor's, Nervous Elderly.
- Active disturbance: Individuals Refusal to vacate, Owners of property are aggravating the outgoing Individual's.

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Safety During Service - Animals

Dogs:

Carry Dog Treats or Dog food

Shake the fence and wait for a response

Invest in flea and tick collars for your safety

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Safety During Service - People

- People... Mental, Homeless, Drug Dealers, Ex-Husbands and Ex-Wives, Relatives...
- Smells; Meth, Death Smell-Body, any odd smell chemical related- “Beware” -Very Dangerous do not take chances – Call HAZMAT better safe then sorry.
- Know the phone numbers for both your local hazmat and/or bomb squad

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Safety During Service - Weapons

Secondary Weapons (who carries tasers/baton/mace)

Benefits:

- 63-85% compliance with mere display
- 65% reduction in suspect injuries
- 75% reduction in suspect injuries requiring medical attention

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What To Do As You Leave

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What To Do As You Leave

The manner that you approached the area, should be the same practice as you leave the area. ***Scan, Look and Listen...***

Use tactics as you wait (move out) – Do Not Stay and Conduct paperwork in your vehicle at location. Leave the area and find and “Safe Area” to complete your paperwork...

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Body Cameras

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Who has access to body cameras?

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- Sec. 1701.6521. GRANTS FOR BODY WORN CAMERA DATA STORAGE. (a) A law enforcement agency in this state that provides body worn cameras to its peace officers may apply to the office of the governor for a grant to defray the cost of data storage for recordings created with the body worn cameras. (b) The grant program established by this section may be funded by federal funds or by gifts, grants, and donations.

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Those who have them – how many regularly wear them?

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Keeping up with Body Camera standards

- Where to take the class?
- *The class includes details like how to store the data, what are privacy issues, ways that you can be in violation of use of the camera*

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Know your department policies

If you're the elected, make sure you keep those policies up to date

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Body camera best practices

This discussion does not override their department policy

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What are benefits of wearing your camera when serving papers or executing writs?

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What are some of the drawbacks?

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Keeping calm knowing it's all on camera

- And what if you're filmed back?

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Thank you!