

Advanced Accreditation Training: *Property and Evidence Control*



Improving Operations, Effectiveness, and Management

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Training Objectives

- Be familiar with definition and use of an *AUDIT*
- Be familiar with definition and use of an *INSPECTION*
- Be familiar with definition and use of an *INVENTORY*
- *Understand Temporary Security*
- Understand the Reporting and Documentation needed for compliance
- Know the difference between high value/ high risk items and "routine" items
- Understand the procedures for final disposition after legal requirements are met



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Why and So What?

- Salt Lake City 2023
- Failure to preserve the scene - OJ
- **Neglecting proper documentation** - Criminal charges and convictions have been dropped against 67 people because of evidence mishandling at the Orange County Sheriff's Department
- *Poor or precise evidence collection techniques* - Amanda Knox
- *Cold Cases* - new technology - Sixteen-year-old Fawn Cox



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Collection and Preservation of Evidence

- - 24-hour availability of qualified person – unit, division, all personnel, MOU?
- - First responders – responsibilities?
- - collection, storage, and transportation – remember OJ blood sample
- - training for collection – who, how often?
- - Chain-of-Custody!!! – how is this preserved?



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What and Why

- Photography – all digital? If not, specify the procedures
- Audio – separate recording device/ Body-cam/Car-cam
- Personally owned devices – BAD IDEA – what policies and procedures do you have to address this?
- Fingerprinting – procedures, training, equipment, DOCUMENTATION
- Sketch? Or digital rendering
- Electronic Evidence – directive must specifically address unique procedures



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Reports and Evidence

- Report Preparation
- Lab Submission
- Know the process
- Evidence from years ago still useful
- Bad reporting leads to lost cases
- Protect your agency and personnel



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Evidence and Property Control All in-custody property

- Logged in before the end of tour OR exceptional circumstances
- Placed under the control of property and evidence before end of tour or exceptional circumstances
- Detailed report of how the evidence has come into the agency's possession and a clear description of each item
- Up-to-date guidelines for packaging and labeling
- Extra Security measures for handling exceptional, valuable, or sensitive items
- Requiring an effort to identify and notify the owner of the property
- Procedures for temporary and final release of property
- Internal control



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Storage and Security

All In-custody and evidentiary property is stored within designated secure areas with limited access.



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Temporary Evidence

- What do your people do with property and evidence when the evidence room is closed?
- Are there 24-hour staff?
- Is there a locker system?
- Have an answer that doesn't violate previously discussed concerns



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Security of Controlled Substances or Weapons for training

- The directive must establish procedures that ensure security and accountability for these items.
- High risk
- Easy to "lose" during high-stress training.
- Who is responsible?
- Who has access?
- Who will be near the item during the training and after?



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Records and Status of Property

- Some reliable method must be developed to show the status of all property in the agency's custody.
- Can be a computer
- Can be paper
- Must be reliable



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The Dreaded Inspection and Reports

Bullet a. An inspection to determine adherence to procedures used for the control of property and evidence is conducted semi-annually by the person responsible for the property and evidence control function or his/her designee

Inspection – A careful and critical examination; a formal review of all components of a particular requirement and an examination of their application.

Who?
How often?
When?



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The Dreaded Inspection and Reports

- Bullet b. An Audit of property and evidence in compliance with Appendix I occurs whenever the property and evidence custodian is assigned to and/or transferred from the position and is conducted jointly by the newly designated property and evidence custodian and a designee of the CEO to ensure that records are correct and properly annotated.
- Audit – Definition



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The Dreaded Inspection and Reports

Bullet c. an annual audit of property and evidence in compliance with Appendix K is conducted by a person not routinely or directly connected with control of property and evidence as directed by the agency's chief executive officer.

Who?
When?



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The Dreaded Inspection and Reports

- Bullet d. Unannounced inspections of property and evidence storage areas are conducted, as directed by the agency's chief executive officer, at least once a year.
- Who?
- When?
- How often?
- Same time as others?



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Final Disposition

- Disposition or Destruction of found, recovered, and evidentiary property







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Civil Process

CIVIL PROCESS FUNCTION OR ASSET FORFEITURE



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For God's sake as questions!!





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