



# CO-SPONSOR: CHUBBUCK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE LAW ENFORCEMENT BEST PRACTICES

FEBRUARY 23-25,  
2026

TRAINING COST  
**\$475**

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register at [www.PATC.com](http://www.PATC.com) or [click here](#) to view more course information and register.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips law enforcement officers with essential legal knowledge crucial for making sound decisions in the field. Covering topics from street encounters to property seizure, participants explore foundational concepts like probable cause and the Fourth Amendment. Through practical exercises and case examples, officers gain updated legal skills for navigating complex situations effectively. By course end, participants are equipped with the expertise needed for informed decision-making in law enforcement operations.



**DON HALEY**  
Instructor

### TRAINING LOCATION

**Chubbuck Police Department**  
5160 Yellowstone Avenue  
Chubbuck ID 83202

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

**Home2 Suites**  
**2325 Via Caporatti**  
**Pocatello, ID 83201**  
**Phone: 208-417-2100**  
Contact Hotel for Stat Govt. Rate

### QUESTIONS?

[www.PATC.com](http://www.PATC.com)  
1-800-369-0119

# Arrest, Search and Seizure: Law Enforcement Best Practices

The purpose of this course is to update officers and supervisors on the foundational legal skills related to the critical legal tasks in law enforcement.

## Arrest, Search, Seizure and Interrogation

## Constitutional Issues Impacting Law Enforcement Operations

Law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have invested resources in certifying officers to train their employees in a variety of skills. While these skills are essential to the law enforcement function, a primary component of the law enforcement function is the ability to make sound legal decisions on when the skills may be employed. For example, an officer may be extremely skilled in breaking down doors with a battering ram, but this skill is of little use if the officer is unfamiliar with the legal issues regarding when it is proper to force open a citizen's door.

The legal issues to be addressed by this course impact law enforcement in a variety of ways. First, the manner in which an officer conducts police operations may impact the prosecution of offenders. Additionally, the professionalism and credibility of officers and agencies will be scrutinized and challenged where cases are lost due to a technical failure by officers to follow the ever-changing legal principles. Finally, officers and agencies may face exposure to civil liability where there has been some deviation from the constitutional rules. Consider a 2004 case from Texas, where officers, armed with an arrest warrant entered the home of third party in search of the subject of the arrest warrant. The person suing the officers and the agency contended: "in the twenty years since *Steagald v. United States* was decided, the section of the Rules and Procedures Manual pertaining to the execution of arrest warrants had not been modified to instruct law enforcement officers of the steps that are constitutionally required to search a third party's residence for the

subject of an arrest warrant..." After the assistant chief of the department testified that he was unaware that the United States Supreme Court's 1981 decision distinguishing entry into third party's homes, the court concluded that the agency's policy was facially unconstitutional and that there was evidence that the agency failed to train its officers on this important constitutional issue.

The purpose of this course is to update officers and supervisors on the foundational legal skills related to the critical legal tasks in law enforcement.

**Street Encounters:** This session will focus on the task of street encounters. Participants will be presented with the distinctions between consensual contacts, reasonable suspicion-based stops and arrests and probable cause-based arrests.

**Stop and Frisk:** This session examines the principles of stop and frisk and provides participants with the current legal framework established by the United States Supreme Court. Participants will assist in developing hypothetical scenarios involving credible as well as anonymous information in order to set out distinctions that have developed in the law. Close attention will be given to the concept of reasonable suspicion as a necessary component of a lawful stop.

**Arrest:** This segment focuses on the concept of probable cause and arrest. Participants will examine the distinctions between arrests in public places versus arrests in autos and residences.

**Search Incident to Arrest:** This segment will examine the concept of search incident to arrest including the most recent Supreme Court decisions on point. The class will focus on the necessary components and scope of a search incident to arrest.

**Use of Force in Stops and Arrests:** Officers must have a clear understanding of use of force when making stops and when carrying out arrests. The law in this area is rapidly developing and participants will examine the legal trends throughout the United States and be provided with case examples.

**Property Seizure:** Officers come into contact with the property of citizens in a variety of contexts. This session examines the propriety of officer involvement in the seizure of property by others; the seizure of property during investigations as well as the proper manner of disposition of property. Participants will be asked to examine hypothetical law enforcement encounters which are routine in the profession in order to reach conclusions as to the appropriate legal response.

**Home Entries:** This lengthy session will examine the various legal mechanisms that officers have for entering private dwellings and other private property. The participants will be provided with a clear understanding with the differing rules related to each type of entry.

**Topics include:** search warrants; arrest warrants; crime scenes; exigent entry; consensual entry; plain view in a home; protective sweeps and search incident to arrest in a home; third party rights to privacy; knock versus no-knock entries as well as many other issues relating to home entries.

**Plain View:** Quite often, when officers are lawfully present in an area protected by the 4th Amendment, they observe items that they recognize as evidence or contraband. Officers faced with these circumstances may seize these items without a warrant. This exception is regularly used by officers; however, it is often misunderstood. This section utilizes practical exercise that can be duplicated to provide updated training on this important topic.

**Motor Vehicle Searches:** A major recurring task in law enforcement is contact with motor vehicles. This session examines the variety of contexts that officers come into contact with motor vehicles and examines the various rules governing each of these contexts. The session includes: ordering occupants out; reasonable suspicions-based motor vehicle searches; probable causes searches of motor vehicle; search incident to arrest in a motor vehicle; consent searches; canine sniffs of motor vehicles; inventory searches of motor vehicles and community- care-taking searches of motor vehicles. Participant will be provided with a vehicle search sheet that crystallizes and distinguishes the rules covering the various motor vehicle contacts.

**Identification Procedures:** Once suspects are apprehended officers may be called upon to construct an identification proceeding. These proceedings include “on-scene show-ups,” photo-arrays; and line-ups. The key to these identification proceedings is those officers ensure that they are not overly suggestive. This session focuses on the rules governing these procedures that have a dramatic impact on the prosecution of cases.

**Questioning and Miranda:** An area of law enforcement that is continuing to develop is the use of Miranda warnings during questioning. The United States Supreme Court has examined a number of Miranda-related cases in the last two years. Participants will examine the foundation of the Miranda rule and then focus on how recent decisions impact current operations.

## Day 1

8:00am - 10:00am

Breaking down, defining, and analyzing the burden of proof continuum, under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

10:00am - 12 noon

Exploring Forth Amendment case law to support the best practices for police during street encounters. Identifying the three levels of police encounters and their complexities:

- a) Consensual
- b) Investigative Detention
- c) Arrest

12 Noon - 1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Analyze Fourth Amendment U.S. Supreme Court Cases on “*Home Entries*”. Break down the U.S. Supreme Court’s requirements found in “*consent search issues*”, dealing with the objections of a present party co-occupant.

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Analyzing recent “*Stare Decisis*” and the required standards in reference to the collecting of Evanescent Evidence.

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Best practices and exclusions for vehicle property searches by LEO’s.

Examine Supreme Court mandatory requirements for law enforcement officers that pertain to inventory and containers located inside of vehicles.

Day 2

8:00am - 10:00am

We will share Case Law and LEO requirements for the following “Property Searches”:

- a) Court restrictions on utilizing drug dogs for searches under the 4th Amendment
- b) “*Search Incident to Arrest*”, relating to premises.
- c) “*Protective Sweeps*” and premises
- d) “*Automobile Searches*”

10:00am - 12 Noon

*Katz v. United States* - Understanding the Supreme Court’s ruling when it comes to “*Reasonable Expectation of Privacy*” and the 4th Amendment. Identifying and avoiding “*Forth Amendment procedural Law Enforcement Land Mines*”. Examining the many facets of obtaining probable cause in a “digital age”, while utilizing best practices that are constitutionally sound.

12 Noon - 1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm - 2:00pm

We will discuss LEO’s best practices for identification procedures, as it relates to U.S. Supreme Court case law. Examples: Photo Line-ups and show-ups

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Latest U.S. Supreme Court case law on 5th Amendment issues pertaining to Miranda Warnings.

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Significant Case Law, relating to the Fourth Amendment, on “*Use of Force*” issues by law enforcement officers. These issues cover police stops, frisks, and arrests.

