

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Regional Training Center

Search Warrants

Expanded Course Outline
(8 Hour course)

- I. Introduction of Instructor and facility orientation
 - A. Student Introduction
 - B. Current assignment and years of experience
- II. Why write search warrants?
 - A. Constitutional Protections
 - 1. Fourth Amendment
 - 2. California Constitution
- III. Search Warrant Requirements
 - A. Must be written
 - B. State a statutory justification
 - C. Describe the person or place to be searched
 - D. Describe the items to be seized
 - E. Be supported with a sworn affidavit
 - F. Be supported by probable cause
 - G. Signed by a judge
 - H. Served by a peace officer
- IV. Develop Probable Cause
 - A. Definition
 - 1. An officer searches
 - 2. Has trustworthy information
 - 3. Sufficient to warrant a prudent man in believing an offense has or is about to occur
- V. Writing the Search Warrant
 - A. Types of Affidavits
 - B. Types of Search Warrants
 - 1. Anticipatory
 - 2. Sneak and Peek
- VI. Serving the Warrant
 - A. Surveillance
 - B. Secure the site
 - C. Serve the Warrant
 - D. Collect evidence
 - E. ID subjects
- VII. Alternatives to a Search Warrant
 - A. Parole/Probation Search
 - B. Consent/Knock and Talk