

# Vehicle Searches & Impounds

Facilitator Guide

## Session Overview

Introduction	05m
Lecture – Relevant Case Laws	35m
Lecture – Impounds	10m
<b>Break</b>	<b>10m</b>
<b>PRACTICAL EXERCISE</b> – Vehicle Searches	40m
Wrap-Up & Secure Training Vehicles	10m
<b>End of Session / Break</b>	<b>10m</b>

*Total Session Time: 2 hours*

### **Main Topics of Session:**

- *Arizona v. Gant*
- *Scope of Search and Personal Items in Vehicle (State v. Valdez)*
- *Snapp / Wright Decisions*
- *Legal Authority to Impound*
- *Alternatives to Impounding*

### **Facilitators Needed: 1(CP)**

**Location: Classroom / Parking Lot for Demo**

### **Materials Needed:**

- *PowerPoint – Vehicles Searches & Impounds*
- *FG Supplemental - ANSWER KEY - Impound Questionnaire*

### **Students Should Already Have:**

#### **[THUMB DRIVE]**

- *BOOK – WAPA Confessions, Search, Seizure & Arrest Guide for Police Officers & Prosecutors – June 2014 (M02 – Extras)*
- *HANDOUT - Tow-Impound Form Sample*
- *Study Session M04/S12 – Impound Questionnaire*



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## SAY TO CLASS

During this Module, you have been learning about traffic enforcement. Sometimes we will arrest a suspect as part of a traffic stop, or when a person is near a vehicle. We need to know the "rules" for searching vehicles. In this session we will address the authority to search and practice conducting a search.

In addition to searching a vehicle, we will also discuss impounding vehicles.

- Traffic Enforcement leads to arrests in and near vehicles
- Impounding Rules



## NOTE TO FACILITATOR - Plain and Open View

Lead a 5-minute discussion on the topic of plain and open view as it relates to vehicle searches.

The students were introduced to the concepts of plain and open view in Mod 03/Ses 01 (Exigent Circumstances and Consent Searches).



## NOTE TO FACILITATOR - Case Law Decisions

Use the associated PowerPoint to go through the current case law decisions regarding Vehicle Searches.



STUDY

## STUDY MATERIAL - BOOK - WAPA Confessions, Search, Seizure, & Arrest Guide for Police Officers & Prosecutors - June 2014 [THUMB DRIVE]

This resource is available on the student thumb drive under M02 - Extras. It has invaluable, current information on the case laws discussed in class.



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## DISCUSS SELF-STUDY - Impound Questionnaire

From: Study Session in Module 4 Study Guide

NTF: Students should have completed the Impound Questionnaire prior to this class. Spend **10 minutes** discussing the answers with them. Take a few minutes to discuss possible alternatives to impounding (depending on individual agency policies).

SEE: [FG Supplemental - ANSWER KEY - Impound Questionnaire](#)

**STUDY**

## STUDY MATERIAL - HANDOUT - Tow-Impound Form Example

Instructions: You have been provided an example of a completed Impound Form in your module 4 Study Guide.



**BREAK** (*set up for demonstration and have students reconvene in the parking lot*)



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## **PRACTICAL EXERCISE** - Vehicle Searches

Instructions: Depending on availability of vehicles and remaining time, set up 1 or more stations in the parking lot using training vehicles that have contraband items (weapons and/or drugs) hidden in them. Have the students practice searching the vehicles for **40 min.** Make sure to remind the students of the difference between a vehicle "search" and a vehicle "inventory".

**Alternative:** Have actors in the vehicle(s) and set up scenarios where the student officers have to determine if they can justify searching the vehicle depending on the situation.



BREAK/END OF SESSION

