



LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM



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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY



In 2024, the Washington County Attorney's Office launched the WCAO Law Enforcement Training Program, and I am excited to announce that the program will continue in 2025 with even more course offerings and an expanded schedule to accommodate early-morning and evening sessions. A total of 20 courses will be available across 52 separate sessions.

Our program is designed with several key objectives in mind. First and foremost, we aim to provide high-quality education that will support our shared mission of successfully charging and prosecuting criminal cases. All of our sessions are approved for POST credits and are completely free of charge. Additionally, law enforcement officers will gain insights from experienced prosecutors in our office, learning strategies specific to Minnesota law and how those strategies align with the best practices here in Washington County.

Finally, fostering and maintaining strong relationships with law enforcement is a top priority for the County Attorney's Office. Meeting and training officers face-to-face provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen those relationships, which are crucial for effective collaboration and the successful administration of justice.

We also recognize that each department may have unique needs, and our office continues to offer additional training beyond what is covered in this program to ensure those needs are met. We are dedicated to supporting law enforcement with in-service training, specialized training, and any other comprehensive training as requested that enhances their skills and knowledge.

I sincerely believe you will find courses in this curriculum both valuable and enjoyable. If you have any questions or suggestions about this program, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our sessions!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. G. May". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The WCAO Law Enforcement Training Program provides law enforcement officers with the opportunity to attend critical training sessions, approved for POST credits, free of charge. These courses will offer perspectives from experienced prosecutors on best practices for law enforcement and collaborate with the WCAO to achieve successful prosecutions.

While officers may attend as many or as few courses as they would like, this program offers a Certificate of Training for those who complete the **three of the four Common Core courses** along with **three additional Specialized Training courses**.

COMMON CORE COURSES*

Report Writing and Testifying
Investigation Basics

Statements and Interrogations
Warrantless Searches and Seizures

SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES

Please note every course may not be offered each year

New Officer Training
Use of Force
Brady Issues
Search & Seizure: Electronic Evidence
Juvenile Investigations
Legislative Updates
Sexual Exploitation & Human Trafficking
Mental Health & Court Process
Arson Investigations
Domestic Abuse & Stalking

CSC Investigations
ERPO Red Flag Law
Forfeitures
Auto Theft Basics
Drug Overdose Death Investigations
Cannabis Update
Revenge Porn & Sextortion
Drug Case Investigation & Submission
Crime Scene Processing
Firearms Law

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WCATTORNEY.INFO](https://www.wcattorney.info)

Report Writing and Testifying*

2 POST CREDITS

Writing reports might not be an officer's favorite part of their job. But writing a good report can keep you from having to testify months, or even years, later. This training will provide officers with crucial tips on how to write reports in a manner that is understandable, helpful to prosecutors who often need to make a quick charging decision, and useful to you if you do have to testify about the incident. We will also cover crucial advice and best practices for testifying in court, whether in a contested omnibus hearing or trial.

Feb. 26, 2025 | Aug. 12, 2025 | Aug. 14, 2025

New Officer Training

3 POST CREDITS

This course will cover three primary topics: basic facts & functions of the Washington County Attorney's Office, report writing, and basic tips for testifying in court. We will discuss the behind-the-scenes activities in the WCAO, how to write an effective report, and tips and strategies on testifying, whether it's at an omnibus hearing or trial. Come learn how we can team up to achieve criminal justice success!

Jan. 31, 2025 | Jun. 20, 2025 | Oct. 3, 2025

Brady Issues

2 POST CREDITS

Brady issues are some of the most complex and important topics a law enforcement officer will face during their career. The course will cover the newly updated Washington County Attorney's Office policy on Brady, as well as pitfalls and strategies to avoid becoming a "Brady Officer" and to prevent potentially devastating consequences related to this hot-button issue.

Feb. 5, 2025 | Aug. 19, 2025 | Aug. 21, 2025

Investigation Basics*

2 POST CREDITS

This course will offer tips and strategies beyond simple policing and report writing to include effective interviewing strategies, documenting crime scenes, and obtaining corroborative evidence. Learn the most common pitfalls and oversights in many investigations, as well as how to anticipate follow-up requests before they occur.

Feb. 11, 2025 | Feb. 13, 2025

Aug. 26, 2025 | Aug. 28, 2025

ERPO: One Year Later

2 POST CREDITS

Extreme Risk Protection Orders -- Minnesota's Red Flag law -- became available in January 2024. ERPOs provide an avenue for law enforcement and the public to obtain court orders prohibiting individuals who present a risk to public safety from having firearms. Learn what happened with ERPOs in the past year, get critical input on what the law can and cannot do, and receive guidance on who to call and what to do with these cases.

Feb. 18, 2025 | Feb. 20, 2025

CSC Investigations

2 POST CREDITS

Sexual crimes are most often committed in secret, with few witnesses and vulnerable victims. We will discuss basic investigation strategies and interviewing techniques, with a great deal of focus on corroboration. Corroboration is the key to building successful cases, and participants in this course will receive guidance on obtaining evidence which will turn the all-too-common credibility contest into a solid, provable case.

Mar. 11, 2025 | Mar. 13, 2025

Sep. 9, 2025 | Sep. 11, 2025

Forfeitures

2 POST CREDITS

In certain situations, law enforcement and/or the Washington County Attorney's Office may be able to forfeit/seize assets related to criminal investigations, such as cash and vehicles. Learn how the WCAO handles forfeiture issues, tips for investigative steps to ensure the viability of forfeitures, and pitfalls to avoid losing the ability to forfeit.

Mar. 18, 2025 | Mar. 20, 2025

Search and Seizure: Electronic Evidence

2 POST CREDITS

Some of the most important evidence in many criminal cases comes from electronic devices, social media providers, and cell phone service providers. But the rules for these searches are only beginning to be developed by the courts. This course will provide helpful information on when there is probable cause to obtain electronic evidence, how to write search warrants for electronic evidence that will stand up in court, when we can compel a defendant to unlock an electronic device, and more. With courts and the legislature continuing to place limitations on searches for electronic evidence, understanding the current state of the law will ensure that you can get the best evidence available and that it holds up in court and leads to convictions.

Apr. 8, 2025 | Apr. 10, 2025

Auto Theft Basics

2 POST CREDITS

Auto theft cases seem relatively straightforward, but there are landmines throughout the investigation of those cases. Learn about auto theft statutes, investigation strategies and tips, and most importantly, "knows or has reason to know the vehicle is stolen" - in other words, finding a suspect in a stolen car is not enough to prove a case!

Apr. 15, 2025 | Apr. 17, 2025

Nov. 4, 2025 | Nov. 6, 2025

Juvenile Investigations

2 POST CREDITS

Minnesota law recognizes the unique characteristics and needs of children. That recognition extends to the prosecution of juveniles for delinquent acts. In order to build your case properly, there are special concepts involved in the interviewing, searching, and charging of juvenile offenders. The experienced juvenile prosecutors of the County Attorney's office will detail those concepts so that your cases can proceed effectively through juvenile court.

May 6, 2025 | May 8, 2025

Drug Overdose Death Investigations

2 POST CREDITS

Drug overdose deaths often transform a straightforward drug possession case into a complex investigation. This course will cover all the essential steps including building a timeline, corroborating and establishing causation, and securing the often-critical electronic evidence.

May 13, 2025 | May 15, 2025

Use of Force

2 POST CREDITS*

Recent statutory changes, high-profile criminal cases, and incendiary social media outlets have made police use of force the most complex and controversial topic in criminal justice in many years. This course will cover statutory language and interpretation, best practices, and WCAO perspectives on use of force cases.

****This course will cover the legal aspects of use of force, not tactical issues. While the course will be approved for standard POST credits, it will not fulfill the Mandatory Learning Objectives criteria.***

Jun. 10, 2025 | Jun. 12, 2025

Legislative Update

2 POST CREDITS

In most years, many new criminal laws, amendments, and existing criminal statutes take effect on August 1st. Participants will learn about how new legislative changes may affect their duties and be given proactive tips for dealing with those changes.

Jul. 15, 2025 | Jul. 17, 2025

Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

2 POST CREDITS

Human trafficking is a topic gaining much needed attention in the criminal justice arena. This training will focus on what officers can look for during traffic stops or general interactions with potential victims and/or suspects in many situations. We will also review the goals and role of the East Metro Human Trafficking Task Force, as well as highlights from recent investigations and case studies.

Sep. 23, 2025 | Sep. 25, 2025

Revenge Porn and Sextortion

2 POST CREDITS

It's a modern-day nightmare: a person shares or creates private sexual images, and those images are posted on the internet as retaliation after a breakup. Worse yet, the image might be used to coerce the victim into providing more images or engaging in sexual activities. New statutes in Minnesota have gone into effect in recent years to prohibit these acts and punish the perpetrators. Attend this course to learn about these statutes, get investigative guidance, and learn how we can work with other agencies, both State and Federal, to prove these cases and obtain the maximum sentences.

Oct. 7, 2025 | Oct. 9, 2025

Cannabis Update

2 POST CREDITS

The landscape around marijuana has changed significantly in recent years - from legalization in 2023, to the pending open sales in March 2025, to court interpretations of the statutes, tracking all the permutations can be extremely difficult. This course will cover the statutes currently in effect, the statutes coming up on the horizon, recent case law on marijuana issues, and pitfalls such as the Torgerson case and home-grown packaging confusion.

Jul. 22, 2025 | Jul. 24, 2025

Statements and Interrogations*

2 POST CREDITS

The cornerstone of any criminal case is the statements of victims, witnesses, and defendants. Participants will learn about the legal constraints involved in obtaining statements, and practical tips to use during interviews to develop a chargeable, provable, and winning case.

Oct. 21, 2025 | Oct. 23, 2025

Mental Health and Court Process

2 POST CREDITS

Law enforcement deals with people suffering from mental illness on a daily basis. But what happens once mentally ill people enter the court system can be a mystery. This course will take you through the court processes for criminal prosecution and civil commitments—including competency of a defendant to stand trial and the defense of not guilty by mental illness. Understanding these crucial processes will help officers make decisions about how to deal with those suffering from mental illness and what information they need to look for and document during those difficult interactions.

Nov. 18, 2025 | Nov. 20, 2025

Warrantless Search and Seizure*

2 POST CREDITS

When does the automobile exception apply? When doesn't it? Can I go into a house to arrest someone with a warrant? What are exigent circumstances anyway? All these questions about WARRANTLESS searches and more will be answered!

Mar. 26, 2025 | Dec. 2, 2025 | Dec. 4, 2025

Drug Case Investigation and Submission

2 POST CREDITS

Hundreds of drug cases are handled by Washington County law enforcement each year and submitted to the County Attorney's office. In addition, new legislation in 2023 and 2024 has complicated the landscape on how to investigate those cases. Attend this course and learn about those new statutes, tips for investigations, processes for testing and retaining evidence, and submitting a case, as well as the criteria the WCAO uses to charge and prosecute them.

Dec. 9, 2025 | Dec. 11, 2025

TRAINING STAFF



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Assistant County Attorney
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2025 COURSE SCHEDULE

REPORT WRITING AND TESTIFYING*	2/26/2025	7:00am - 9:00am
	2/26/2025	6:00pm - 8:00pm
	8/12/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	8/14/2025	6:00pm - 8:00pm
NEW OFFICER TRAINING	1/31/2025	9:00am - 12:00pm
	6/20/2025	9:00am - 12:00pm
	10/3/2025	9:00am - 12:00pm
BRADY ISSUES	2/5/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	2/5/2025	6:00pm - 8:00pm
	8/19/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	8/21/2025	9:00am - 11:00 am
INVESTIGATION BASICS*	2/11/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	2/13/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
	8/26/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	8/28/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
ERPO: ONE YEAR LATER	2/18/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	2/20/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
CSC INVESTIGATIONS	3/11/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	3/13/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
	9/9/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	9/11/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
FORFEITURES	3/18/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	3/20/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
SEARCH AND SEIZURE: ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE	4/8/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	4/10/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
AUTO THEFT BASICS	4/15/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	4/17/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
	11/4/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	11/6/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS	5/6/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	5/8/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH INVESTIGATIONS	5/13/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	5/15/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
USE OF FORCE	6/10/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	6/12/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE	7/15/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	7/17/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
	7/17/2025	6:00pm - 8:00pm
CANNABIS UPDATE	7/22/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	7/24/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING	9/23/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	9/25/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
REVENGE PORN AND SEXTORTION	10/7/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	10/9/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
STATEMENTS AND INTERROGATIONS*	10/21/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	10/23/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
MENTAL HEALTH AND COURT PROCESS	11/18/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	11/20/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
WARRANTLESS SEARCH AND SEIZURE*	3/26/2025	7:00am - 9:00am
	3/26/2025	6:00pm - 8:00pm
	12/2/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	12/4/2025	9:00am - 11:00am
DRUG CASE INVESTIGATION AND SUBMISSION	12/9/2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm
	12/11/2025	9:00am - 11:00am