

Law and Public Safety Terminology

43.0100.00



1,2,3

21st Century Policing- A task force created by an executive order in response to the Ferguson, Missouri shooting of Michael Brown. The task force findings included the need for better data collection on police shootings, data on public perception of police and reduction in department policies that promoted quotas for arrests and convictions.

A

Accident- An event that causes unintentional injury.

ACIC (Arizona Crime Information Center)- Criminal information supported by Arizona Department of Public Safety that collects feeds on arrests, the issue of active warrants, case dispositions and the occurrence of criminal matters from law enforcement agencies and the state judiciary.

ACJIS (Arizona Criminal Justice Information System)- A statewide network housing various databases on persons and property in Arizona.

Active Listening- Usually a 10 step process of listening, engaging and reflecting what one hears

Adjudication-The act of giving a judicial ruling such as a judgment or decree.

ADT-American Dictograph and Telephone monitored alarm systems in houses.

AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System)- A biometric identification methodology that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze fingerprint data. A computerized collection of known source and unknown source fingerprints. The computer program is capable of making a comparison of an individual print to other prints in the system.

Aggravating- to make worse or more severe, to intensify.

Airport Police - Police officers assigned to patrol airports and investigate criminal and suspicious activity.

Allan Pinkerton- Considered the father of private security and founded the Pinkerton Protection Patrol, providing guard services for industrial companies.

Amber Alert - A system designed to notify citizens of unlawful taking of a child that provides name and vehicle information of the suspected kidnapper.

Amendment - Legal ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

American Society of Industrial Security- First professional organization for security personnel and professional certifications.

Appeal- Application to a higher court to dispute a lower court's decision.

Arch- a fingerprint classification where the friction ridges enter from one side of the finger pad and exit the other side.

Arrest - Taking into custody

Asset- Any item that is physical or ideal that is owned by a corporation, business or private person that has a monetary value or not.

Autopsy - Medical examination of a deceased body.

Aviation - The police unit assigned to the use of airplanes, helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, and drones to assist with the identification of criminal activity and suspects, and assisting ground officers with location and direction of travel of vehicles and mobile suspects.

B

Bail- The money put up to secure the release of a person who has been charged with a crime.

Bandage - A material used to bind or protect an injured body part.

Barricaded Suspects - Subjects creating a barrier from emergency personnel from rendering aid.

Beyond a reasonable doubt- The burden of in a criminal trial, usually 100% guilty or innocent.

Bicycle Patrol - Officers assigned to patrol on bicycles, usually a small community, or venue where there is a large amount of foot traffic.

Bill of Rights - Legal document containing the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Biological evidence- Evidence that is commonly recovered from crime scenes. Such as blood, saliva, sperm, hair, tissue, bones, teeth, blood, or other bodily fluids.

Biological- Relating to biology or living organisms.

Block Watch - A partnership between citizens and police to help reduce crime in neighborhoods by active participation of the community and notification of suspicious activity/ people.

Blood alcohol content- The amount of ethical alcohol in grams of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

Blood Pressure - Pressure of circulating blood on the walls of the blood vessels.

Bobbies- London police officers, it is a nickname based on Sir Robert Peel's original officers.

Body language- Non-verbal communication that includes facial movement, gestures and posture often done on a subconscious level.

Bomb Squad - A unit of police who respond to incidents involving explosives or bombs.

Bond- A bond provided by an insurance company through a bail bondsman acting as agent for the company, to secure the release from jail of an accused defendant pending trial.

Border Patrol- Primarily responsible for preventing terrorist and weapons of mass destruction from entering the Country with a secondary responsibility to apprehend people and goods entering the country without proper authorization.

Bow Street Runners- Officers of the Bow Street Court who were sent running to the scenes of a crime to investigate and report back to the magistrates.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives - Investigates regulator issues around possession, sale, manufacture, transfer and taxation on specific consumer goods.

Bureau of Indian Affairs- Responsible for overseeing the United States responsibilities to native (indigenous) people through treaty compliance, and includes law enforcement.

Bureau of Land Management- Responsible for managing all public lands, including granting leases for grazing, mining and other exploration on those lands. Shares profits with States.

C

Caliber- the diameter dimension of a bullet or the barrel of a firearm.

Canine (K-9) - Dogs specifically bred and trained to work with a police officer. Usually trained for specific identification (ie., drugs, cadaver, bombs, cell phones, etc...)

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - Assisting the heart and lungs to work with via chest compressions.

Centerfire primer- A bullet with a primer, the explosive charge that detonates the gunpowder, centered in the base of the casing.

Central Intelligence Agency - Responsible for intelligence gathering and analysis from primarily foreign sources.

Chain of command- In an organizational structure of reporting relationships which establishes accountability and lines of decision making and authority.

Chain of custody- A documented list of every person touching a piece of evidence after it is discovered at a crime scene. Time, date and reason for contact should also be included.

Circumstantial evidence- Evidence that is based on the probability that an event happened based on the circumstances.

Civilian Review Board - A group of citizens formed to review activity of questionable police officer conduct in the line of duty.

Class evidence- Evidence that links an event to a group of people but not necessarily an individual.

Closed-Circuit Television- A video system where signals are not publicly broadcast but are monitored for surveillance and security purposes.

Code 3- Emergency response to life threatening or other authorized serious events utilizing emergency lights and sirens.

CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)- The FBI's program of support for criminal justice DNA databases as well as the software used to run these databases.

Collision- The violent meeting of two objects where one is a vehicle.

Comes Stabuli- Literal translation Keeper of the stable; In Roman and Medieval times this referred to the constable or keeper of the castle or a fortified city.

Community Policing - A policing philosophy and management approach that involves community and police partnerships.

Community Policing- A policing philosophy and management approach that involves community and police partnerships.

Comparison microscope- A magnification device which links two microscopes by an optic bridge. This allows the examiner to compare two separate samples side by side at the same time.

Confidential- Information that is a secret or is intended to remain secret.

Contact damage- Damage sustained to a vehicle directly resulting from contact with an object.

Continuum - A scale to show progression of values/elements by varying degrees.

Contraband- Items that are or illegal or prohibited.

Contract Security- Firms that sell their services to the public, including homeowners, businesses and governments.

Contusion - Bruising of the skin.

Corporate Security- Security departments inside a business or corporation.

Corrections- Variety of community and institutional organizations, treatment programs, and services used to manage criminal offenders.

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)
- Proper use and design of the environment can lead to a decrease in crime and increase in quality of life.

Crime Mapping- Technique to predict crime trends and security threats.

Crime Scene Techs - Personnel who respond to crimes scenes to assist detectives with photography, and evidence collection.

Cross contamination- introducing evidence, usually trace evidence from one scene to another.

Culpable Mental State - Deserving blame or censure; blameworthy.

D

Dactylogram- fingerprint

Database- is a collection of information that is organized so that it can be easily accessed, managed and updated.

Dementia- a progressive mental condition where multiple cognitive functions begin to break down (memory, organizational ability etc.).

Department of Homeland Security-Founded by George W. Bush on November 2002 with a mission to coordinate and provide anti-terrorism, border security, immigration and customs, cyber security, and disaster prevention and management.

Detective - Officers assigned to follow-up crimes and respond to crime scenes for the detection and collection of evidence.

Deterrence- Focused on future actions or the avoidance of certain actions by individuals or society.

Diplomatic immunity- the exemption from certain laws and taxes granted to diplomats by the country in which they are working.

Direct evidence- evidence that supports the truth of a claim (in criminal law, the claim of guilt or of innocence) without an intervening inference.

Dispatcher - Personnel responsible for two-way communication between field units.

Divided attention task- A test used to measure a person's ability to physically perform a task and think about their actions.

DNA- Deoxyribonucleic Acid, which is a blueprint of living things.

Domestic Violence - violent abuse of a spouse or partner.

Double jeopardy- bars second prosecutions after either acquittal or conviction, and prohibits multiple punishments for the same offense.

Dressing- sterile cover put over a wound.

Drone- an unmanned aircraft remotely controlled.

Drug Enforcement Administration- responsible for enforcing federal laws on drug manufacture, sale, transfer and use both inside our borders and in foreign countries.

E

Edema- swelling of a body part possibly as a result from trauma or illness.

Edged weapon- a weapon with at least one sharpened edge that relies on human muscle power to wield it as in knife, sword or arrow.

Ejector mark- a scratch or dent made in a shell casing by the ejector/extractor when the cartridge is expelled from a semi-auto or full automatic firearm. This is another point of comparisons between casings.

Emergency Broadcast System - A government system used to notify citizens of emergency situations happening in the community, usually broadcast via television and radio.

Evidence Based Policing- (EBP) policy making and tactical decision-making emphasizing the value of statistical analysis, empirical research and ideally randomized controlled trials.

Evidence- every type of proof legally presented at trial (allowed by the judge) which is intended to convince the judge and/or jury of alleged facts material to the case.

Extractor impression- a scratch or dent made in a shell casing by the ejector/extractor when the cartridge is expelled from a semi-auto or full automatic firearm. This is another point of comparisons between casings.

F

Federal Air Marshal Service- responsible to travel on airlines providing safety and security in the air for passengers and crews.

Federal Bureau of Investigations- responsible for criminal investigative of federal statute violations and domestic intelligence gathering.

Felony - In Arizona, 6 classes of crimes that require imprisonment.

Field sobriety test- A test used to measure a person's ability to divide their attention.

Fingerprint minutiae- the tiny points found in the ridge pattern of a fingerprints that make each print unique. Examples are ending ridges, islands, bifurcations (forks), deltas etc.

Fingerprint- the impression of the pad of a finger left behind on a surface touched. The composition is oil and amino acids secreted in the skin and the remaining mark is the image of the friction ridges making pattern.

FIT FORCE - Physical readiness program.

Flare- a flammable chemical compound contained within a hollow tube that when ignited gives off light, heat and and vapor/smoke.

Foot patrol- police patrol done by walking usually in a neighborhood or similar sized geographic area.

Force Continuum- a model used to describe the types and amount of force officers may use to overcome resistance. Used as a tool to clarify what amount of force is acceptable to both law enforcement and civilians.

Forensic Anthropology- is the examination of human skeletal remains for law enforcement agencies to determine the identity of unidentified bones.

Fracture - a broken bone.

Friction ridge- ridges that make up the distinct pattern of a fingerprint.

G

Gas chromatograph- a machine used to separate the component parts of a compound by vaporizing the original and reading the various gasses and their quantity.

Geospatial Information Systems-graphic view of threats or crimes from different sources into one layered image.

Grand jury- a legal body empowered to conduct official proceedings and investigate potential criminal conduct, and determine whether criminal charges should be brought.

Groove impression/Striation- a bullet is slightly larger than the barrel of the firearm. As it travels down the barrel it is scored by the bore markings (lands and grooves) leaving a pattern distinctive to that weapon.

Guilty- A plea of a criminal defendant who does not intend to contest the charges or a verdict by jury that believes the defendant committed the crime.

H

Halfway House- a community residential centers where offenders live that provide supervision, room and board and could be an alternative to prison.

Hammurabi- the 6th king of the 1st Babylonian Dynasty known for partnering crime with its punishment then commissioning the creation of stone tablets with the information inscribed on them. They were erected in areas for everyone to see.

Hard drive- a computer's internal storage and drive hardware.

Headstamp- the letters and numbers stamped on bullet casings by the manufacture.

Hijacker - a person who takes control of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship while it is in transit, and forces it to travel to a different destination for illegal purposes.

Horizontal gaze nystagmus- a field sobriety test that looks at the involuntary jerking of the eyes as they move to the side.

Hostage - subjects forcefully seized as a means to have demands met.

House arrest- offenders who live at home and are limited to live at home except times they are at work or involved in approved activities.

Hue and Cry- British common law requiring onlookers and witnesses to assist with the capture of criminals by calling out when they witnessed an act. It was a way to absolve them of any liability to the victim.

I

Immunity- avoidance of prosecution either by international law or to certain people who function as a member of the state.

Impeachment- process of questioning a witness in a trial to show the witness shouldn't be credited or valued as a witness.

Incapacitation- reducing offenders' ability to commit further crimes.

Incident Command System - a management system designed to help with effective and efficient communication and collaboration between agencies in emergency situations.

Interagency Agreement - an agreement between different communities and/or agencies to assist in community services.

Incident Command System- is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common chain of command which increases effectiveness of responding agencies.

Individual evidence- evidence that can be associated with a single individual.

Induced damage- Crash damage other than direct impact damage caused by the vehicle bending, twisting, and crushing.

Inference- a conclusion or opinion based on known facts or evidence.

Informant - a person with information provided to police to either work off charges or for payment.

Initial appearance- the act of a party or an attorney showing up in court to make a plea of guilty, not guilty or no contest.

Intentionally - a person's objective is to cause a specific result or to engage in a specific conduct.

Internal Affairs - the police unit assigned to look into misconduct by officers or complaints against officers.

Interrogation - to ask questions for the purpose to seek answers or information that the person questioned considers personal or secret or is incriminating in nature.

Interview - a meeting of people face to face, especially for consultation or to answer questions that are not incriminating in nature.

J

Jail- a place for lawful confinement of people waiting for their trial or for those convicted of misdemeanor offenses.

Jurisdiction- the authority given by law to a court to try cases and rule on legal matters within a particular geographic area and/or over certain types of legal cases.

Jury- a jury is a sworn body of people gathered to decide an impartial verdict of guilt or innocence.

K

Kevlar- a bullet and impact resistant fabric that disperses kinetic energy over a widened area. It is used in multiple layers to create bullet resistant garments including vests, shirts and jackets

Knowingly - When a person is aware or believes that his or her conduct is of that nature or that the circumstance exists.

L

Land and groove impression- marks made on a bullet as it travels out of the barrel of a firearm matching the rifling on its barrel surface. Grooves are cut into the bullet and the Lands are the raised area in between.

Latent print- fingerprints found at a crime scene which are not initially visible to the naked eye. Using graphite powder, talc or other substances to make the print visible allows the investigator to photograph and/or lift the print to preserve it for comparison.

Layered Protection- a concept of principles that include deterrence, detection, delay and defense.

Less-lethal weapon- instruments require human muscle power to wield that are not intended to cause death; Tasers, pepper spray, pepper balls, batons, etc.

Lethal force - or deadly force is force that likely to cause serious bodily injury or death.

Locard's principle of exchange- the theory that when two things come into contact there is an exchange of trace material. In other words, when you enter a crime scene, you bring trace evidence with you and when you leave, you take trace evidence away.

Loop- a fingerprint classification with the friction ridge(s) entering one side of the finger pad and exiting on the same side (making a loop).

M

Mass spectrometer- the machine used for breaking substance into component parts at a molecular level. First the substance is broken down into atomic parts which are ionized. They are then subjected to a magnetic force causing them to deviate in their path. This deviation is then measured. The measurements identify the component parts.

Metropolitan Police Act of 1829- defined the roles of police, who were to maintain order, and private security, who provided security service to private citizens.

Misdemeanor - in Arizona 3 classes of crimes that could result in jail time and or fines.

Mitigating- to make less severe.

Motorcycle Officer - an officer assigned to ride a motorcycle on duty. Usually assigned to traffic control.

Motorized patrol -police patrol using motorized vehicles; cars, motorcycles etc.

N

National Park Service- responsible for managing the National Parks, providing law enforcement services inside park boundaries and created by the Organic Act.

National Weather Service -national government agency designed to provide atmospheric and weather information.

NCIC (national crime information center)- criminal information supported by Arizona Department of Public Safety that collects feeds on arrests, the issue of active warrants, case dispositions and the occurrence of criminal matters from law enforcement agencies and the nation.

Negligence - when a person fails to perceive a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the result will occur or that the circumstance exists.

Night Watch - a group of men who patrolled the cities at night, also called rattle watch, because they carried rattles to signal for help.

Nolo contendere- a plea often called a plea of no contest made by a defendant to a criminal charge, allowing the judge to then find him/her guilty.

Non-lethal training projectiles- ammunition that can be used in active fire training that does not penetrate on impact (paintball, soap rounds etc).

O

Objection- a lawyer's protest about the legal propriety of a question which has been asked of a witness by the opposing attorney.

Objective information- information that is based on fact.

Observation- utilizing the senses to acknowledge activity occurring in proximity to one's person.

Overruled- when a judge disagrees with an objection and the witness may not answer.

P

Paraphrase- repeating what was heard using your own words to indicate a clear understanding.

Parish Constable - rural law enforcement used during the middle ages.

Parole- a temporary release of a prisoner who agrees to certain conditions before the completion of the maximum sentence period.

Pathology- the study of the causes and effects of diseases, and of body tissue for diagnostic or forensic purposes.

Patrol- moving around a designated area for the purpose of observing and/or preventing activity.

Peel - Sir Robert Peel, the father of modern policing.

Peer Pressure- The feeling that you must do something because others are doing it or want you to do it.

Penal code- Authorization to use a specific range of punishment for a specific crime.

Petit jury- A group of 6 to 12 people who decides whether the defendant committed the crime as charged in a criminal case, or whether the defendant injured the plaintiff in a civil case.

Physical evidence- Tangible evidence found at a crime scene.

Plea bargain- a negotiation between the defence attorney and the prosecutor, in which the defendant agrees to plead "guilty" or "no contest" to some crimes, in return for reduction of the severity of the charges, dismissal of some of the charges.

Police Cadets - a program designed to provide juveniles (14-20) with a real-world experience of policing.

POPAT- Police Officer Physical Aptitude Test, physical fitness test to determine strength, stamina and agility.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder- a depressive disorder caused by witnessing or experiencing a life altering event(s) that causes interruption of normal life activities.

Premeditation - actions, thoughts or planning a crime before it happens.

Pre-planning- Formulating a course of action before an event, usually based on prior experience.

Preponderance of evidence- The burden of proof in a civil trial, usually more than 50% responsible or not responsible.

Primary crime scene- Where a crime actually occurred.

Prison- A place of confinement for people convicted of serious crimes usually administered by the State or Federal government.

Private Investigator- An individual hired by a person or group for investigative law or private services.

Private prison- A correctional facility that is operated by any other group that is not a governmental agency usually a for-profit contractor.

Probable cause- Facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable and prudent person to believe a crime occurred and the person detained is the suspect.

Probation- A period of supervision of an offender ordered by the court instead of serving time in prison.

Problem-Oriented Policing - A component of Community Policing, involves the finding the reason for problems, including crime, and determining solutions.

Projectile- Object that is propelled by an external force but continues on its course by its own inertia.

Prosecute- To hold a trial against a person who is accused of a crime to see if that person is guilty.

Prudent - Acting with or showing careful thought for the future.

Psychomotor- Having to do with cognition and performing physical tasks.

Punishment- The infliction of pain and suffering. We use punishment to teach the difference between right and wrong.

R

Rapport- Relationship based on mutual understanding and empathy that facilitates easier communication.

Reasonable - Having reasonable judgement that is sound and reasonable.

Recidivism- The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.

Recklessly - A person is aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the result will occur or that the circumstance exists.

Reflective listening- A two step process to listening, first to seek understanding of what is said then a paraphrase back to the speaker to confirm understanding of the initial message.

Reflective statement- Portrays a past event.

Reflective vest- a garment embellished with light reflective tape used for the purpose of making the wearer more visible.

Rehabilitation-Return someone to a prior state, or better able to avoid criminality.

Rescue Breathing - Artificial breathing given from one person to another.

Restitution-Acts by which criminals make right or repay society or victims for their wrongs.

Reverse 9-1-1 - A public alert system used by emergency dispatch services to send a recorded message to individuals of an emergency in the area.

Revise - A change/revision of a document or law.

Revolver- A hand held firearm with a cylinder used to move bullets into position to be struck by the firing pin or hammer. Usually capable of holding 5 or 6 bullets.

Rifle- A long gun usually fired from a position held against the shoulder.

Rifling- Grooves in the barrel of a firearm that cause the bullet to spin as it travels out of the barrel. The purpose of causing the spin is to improve range and accuracy.

Rim fire primer- The type of bullet where the explosive charge is around the junction of the jacket and the base. This type of primer detonates when force is applied to any part of the base.

S

SARA (Scanning, Analyzing, Responding, Assessing)

Model - The Problem-Oriented Policing model.

School Resource Officer - A sworn officer assigned to a designated school or schools to deter crime and handle crimes occurring on campus.

Scientific method- A systematic approach to inquiry or investigation that involves identifying a problem, forming a hypothesis then collecting data or evidence to determine the validity of the hypothesis.

Search - Examining a person's body or possessions or an area for contraband/evidence/weapons related to criminal behavior or intent.

Secondary crime scene- Is in some way related to the crime but is not where the actual crime took place.

Secret Service- Responsible for protecting the president and investigating counterfeiting.

Security Awareness- A team approach where everyone is a stakeholder in maintaining safety of a given asset and has a duty to remain aware of potential threats.

Seizure - Confiscating a person's property or actual person for criminal acts defined by the law.

Self-incrimination- The act of incriminating oneself or exposing oneself to prosecution.

Semi-automatic pistol- A handheld firearm that uses the energy from a fired cartridge to cycle the spent casing out and seat the next round ready for firing.

Shell casing- the eternal housing of a shell or bullet that contains the priming charge, gunpowder, and projectile.

Shire - The forerunner to what is now considered counties.

Shire Reeve - The head of the shire; The forerunner to the county sheriff. Acted as both police officer and judge.

Shock - The body's reaction to reduced blood flow.

Shotgun- A firearm usually intended to be fired from the shoulder utilizing a round comprised of gunpowder, a wad of material intended to push the small particles (shot) or a single solid projectile (slug) out of the casing.

Silver Alert - Similar to Amber Alert, this program is designed to notify communities of missing elderly people and their vehicles.

Simulator- A device that allows the user to develop and hone skills in a virtual environment that they will likely needed in actual job performance.

Skid- A mark left on a surface from a tire that is locked and not rolling.

Skip skid- A braking skid mark interrupted at frequent regular intervals. A mark made by a bouncing braked wheel.

Status Offense- An offense that is considered a crime only because the offender is under 18 and it wouldn't be considered a crime if committed by someone 18 or older.

Statute - Written state laws

Stress - Psychological or physical strain or tension resulting from demanding or adverse situations.

Subjective information- Information that is based on feeling.

Subpoena- A writ ordering a person to attend a court.

Suicide - Intentionally causing your own death; The taking of one's own life.

Summons-An order or writ ordering a person to appear before a judge or magistrate.

Supermax Prison- A prison which is in charge of controlling inmates designated as violent or seriously disruptive inmates in other prisons.

Surveillance- Keeping a close watch on something.

Sustained- When a judge agrees with an objection and the witness is allowed to answer.

Swab- A sterile cotton tipped collection tool.

SWAT – Special Weapons and Tactics unit that can be called upon in unusual dangerous situations, such as hostages, heavily armed subjects, etc...

T

Threat Level Matrix- A method to determine proper security countermeasures based on importance of the asset and probability of a threat.

Tithing - A group of ten families assigned to a chief who was responsible for enforcing laws of theft and murder.

Tort - Civil action against a party(ies) for a wrong committed against them, typically financial in nature.

Trace evidence- Evidence that is in minute quantities or is of diminutive size; fiber, DNA glass shards etc.

Transportation Security Administration- Responsible for ensuring the safe transportation of people and goods.

Tribunal- Any person or institution with authority to judge, adjudicate on, or determine claims or disputes.

Trier of fact- Is a person, or group of persons, who determines facts in a legal proceeding, usually a trial.

U

Undercover - Personnel assigned to investigate crimes in civilian clothes to fit into certain criminal elements or areas.

United States Forest Service (USFS)- Responsible for maintaining the national forest resource and fighting wildland fires nationwide.

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement- Responsible for enforcing laws regarding the entry into the Country of people and goods.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USICS)- Responsible for monitoring the pathway of legal visitation and citizenship application of foreign nationals.

Use of force - Any force (physical or verbal) that is used by officers to control a suspect(s).

V

Vicarious Trauma - Exposure to someone else's traumatic experience.

Vice - Acts of criminal behavior involving gambling, prostitution, pornography, and drugs.

Vice Detectives - Personnel assigned to investigate Vice crimes.

Vigilantes - Early settlers taking the law into their own hands in the absence of effective policing.

Voir dire- Development of a jury through a preliminary examination by a judge or counsel.

W

Warning Sirens - A public alert system used to notify communities of an emergency incident happening within the area.

Warrant- An order authorizing the arrest and detention of an individual.

Wells Fargo- Used employees to protect express freight delivery.

Whorl- Fingerprint classification involving at least one friction ridge that makes a complete closed circuit. Sometimes described as spiraling in from the edge of the pad.

Wickersham Commission - The National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement established on May, 20 1929 by J. Edgar Hoover, which surveyed the U.S. criminal justice system during prohibition and recommended public policy. The commission was chaired by George Wickersham.

Witness- A person who sees or hears an event happening, especially a crime or an accident.