

Impact of Supreme Court Cases on Law Enforcement Key Terms

- Criminal procedure – the process followed by police and courts in the apprehension, litigation, and punishment of defendants
- Deadly force – the amount of force used by a law enforcement officer that would reasonably pose a high risk of death or serious injury to another person
- Due process clause – the provision in the Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution stating that no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law
- Exclusionary Rule – a provision that excludes any illegally obtained evidence by the government from being admissible in court proceedings
- Fourth Amendment – constitutional provision that provides to citizens the freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures
- Fruit of the Poisoned Tree Doctrine – the doctrine holding that if evidence is initially obtained in an illegal way, all subsequent evidence gathered from the unlawful manner is “poisoned,” as well. If the tree is poisoned, so is the fruit coming from it
- Search – the exploration or examination of an individual’s home, vehicle, or person by a law enforcement officer to obtain items that may be used by the government in court proceedings as evidence
- Seizure – the taking, by law enforcement officers, of potential evidence in a criminal case. Also applies to the exercise of dominion over a person or thing because of a law violation (i.e. stopping, deterring, or arresting a person)
- Stop and Frisk – a police practice, based on reasonable suspicion, giving a law enforcement officer the ability to stop an individual in a public place, to ask questions to determine whether that person has or is about to commit a crime, and to frisk that person for weapons if the officer is reasonably concerned for his or her own personal safety
- Use of Force – the degree of force to be used for a given situation