

POLICE COMPASS

Volume 8 • January 2026

FREE LEGAL GLOSSARY

Hybrid or dual procedure offences: offences for which the Crown prosecutor chooses to proceed either by summary conviction or by indictment.

Summary conviction offence: a less serious offence that is tried using a simplified set of rules of procedure.

Reasonable expectation of privacy test: a test used by the courts to determine whether a police search was lawful; considers whether the accused's expectation of privacy was reasonably held and whether the search was reasonable.

Search warrant: an authorization, granted to police officers by a judge, which authorizes officers to search a specific place.

VISIT [EMOND.CA](https://emond.ca) FOR
THE COMPLETE LEGAL
GLOSSARY



THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is more than a résumé booster—it is a vital step in preparing for a career in policing. Police services seek candidates with strong personal competencies, a genuine commitment to public service, and an understanding of the communities they will serve and protect. Consistent volunteer work is one of the best ways to demonstrate your readiness for the role.

Police recruiters place particular emphasis on three personal competencies:

- **Cognitive Skills:** The ability to think critically, gather information, stay organized, adapt, and make safe, logical decisions.
- **Affective Skills:** The personal qualities that reflect emotional intelligence, such as confidence, self-control, motivation, and a commitment to continual growth.
- **Psychomotor Skills:** The physical abilities required for the job, including fitness, coordination, sensory awareness, and overall health.

Volunteering helps you develop all three skills and provides concrete examples to draw on during your interviews. For instance, assisting at a **community safety event** strengthens organizational and problem-solving skills (cognitive), working in a **victim services program** builds communication and emotional regulation (affective), and volunteering with **St. John Ambulance** or **fire services** demonstrates physical readiness (psychomotor).

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THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

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Beyond skill development, volunteering helps you strengthen relationships between police and the community, gain a deeper understanding of the community you aim to serve, build professional connections with officers, and obtain valuable references for your applications.

Where to Volunteer:

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

- Local police services: Auxiliary, Reserve, and Crime Prevention Programs
- Victim services programs
- Volunteer firefighting

Health and Emergency Response

- Local hospitals and health centres
- Mental health or crisis hotlines
- St. John Ambulance
- Canadian Red Cross

Community and Social Services

- Food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters
- Local non-profits and charities
- Public safety events
- Youth mentorship programs (e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters)
- Coaching local sports
- Senior support programs
- Immigrant support services
- Indigenous community organizations

Adapted from *The Law Enforcement Handbook: Foundations, Skills, and Career Pathways*, 2nd Edition by Charles Lawrence, Brian Moorcroft, Howie Page and Laura Salsbury. Published by Emond Publishing.



RESOURCES FOR POLICE FOUNDATIONS STUDENTS

ONLINE

OACP: oacp.on.ca

CACP: cacp.ca/index.html

Blue Line: blueline.ca

OPP: opp.ca/index.php

YRP: yrp.ca/en/careers.asp

TPS: torontopolice.on.ca/careers

PRINT

Mental Health Awareness Bundle:
Practical Skills for First Responders
and Mental Health Awareness:
Self Care for First Responders, 2nd ed.

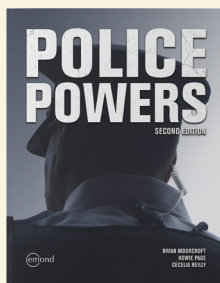
Fitness and Lifestyle Bundle: Fit For Duty, Fit for Life and Fitness and Lifestyle Management for Law Enforcement, 6th ed.

Communications and Report Writing for Law Enforcement Professionals, 5th ed.

The Law Enforcement Handbook: Foundations, Skills, and Career Pathways, 2nd ed.

PRINT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT **EMOND.CA**

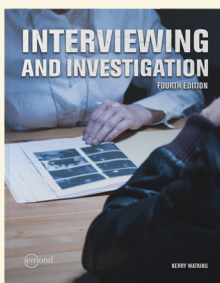
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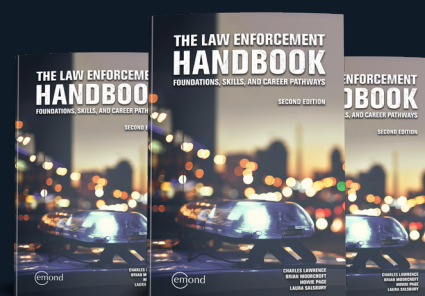
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THE LAW ENFORCEMENT HANDBOOK: FOUNDATIONS, SKILLS, AND CAREER PATHWAYS 2ND EDITION

AUTHORED BY CHARLES LAWRENCE, BRIAN MOORCROFT, HOWIE PAGE & LAURA SALSURY





WHO'S WHO IN A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION?

The CSI Effect describes the influence of popular TV crime investigation programs on juror behaviour and public understanding of criminal investigations. The most apparent example is the confusion surrounding the roles of the people involved in criminal investigations. On TV, the patrol officer, detective, crime scene investigator, and forensic scientist are often rolled into a single character. In reality, criminal investigations are carried out by several individuals, each with their own specialized knowledge, training, and expertise.

Here is a quick guide to the roles and responsibilities of those involved in criminal investigations.

- **Uniformed police constables** typically patrol and respond to emergency calls for service within a defined area. At a crime scene, they ensure public safety, arrest offenders, obtain preliminary information from witnesses, and secure the scene. The first constable to arrive assumes control until relieved by a supervisory officer or a forensic identification specialist.
- **Uniformed police supervisors** oversee the quality of the uniformed response to calls. The supervisor ensures that sufficient resources are made available to protect and manage the crime scene. They assume control of the scene until relieved by a detective or forensic identification specialist.
- **Detectives** (criminal investigators/investigative officers) conduct and manage the investigation, lay criminal charges, prepare the criminal case for court, and, when requested, assist the prosecutor when the case goes to court. Through the supervisor, they ensure that the uniformed constables have fulfilled their responsibilities until forensic identification specialists arrive. An investigation may involve multiple detectives.
- **Forensic identification specialists** identify, document, collect, preserve, and analyze—or submit for analysis—the physical evidence from a crime scene. While they may occasionally analyze physical evidence themselves, they typically ensure that it is properly gathered and submitted to other specialists for analysis.
- **Forensic scientists** are civilian investigative specialists with scientific training and analytical expertise in chemistry, biology, firearms, or documents. They usually work in independent laboratories and conduct objective analyses of evidence to generate a report of their findings. Forensic scientists may provide expert opinion evidence in court but rarely attend crime scenes.
- **Forensic pathologists** conduct post-mortem examinations of people who die suddenly to determine the cause of death. They use their medical, scientific, and legal expertise to explain what may have caused or contributed to a death, and they provide expert opinions on their findings to criminal courts.

Adapted from *Evidence and Investigation: From the Crime Scene to the Courtroom*, 3rd Edition by Kerry Watkins, Gail Anderson and Warren Bulmer. Published by Emond Publishing.

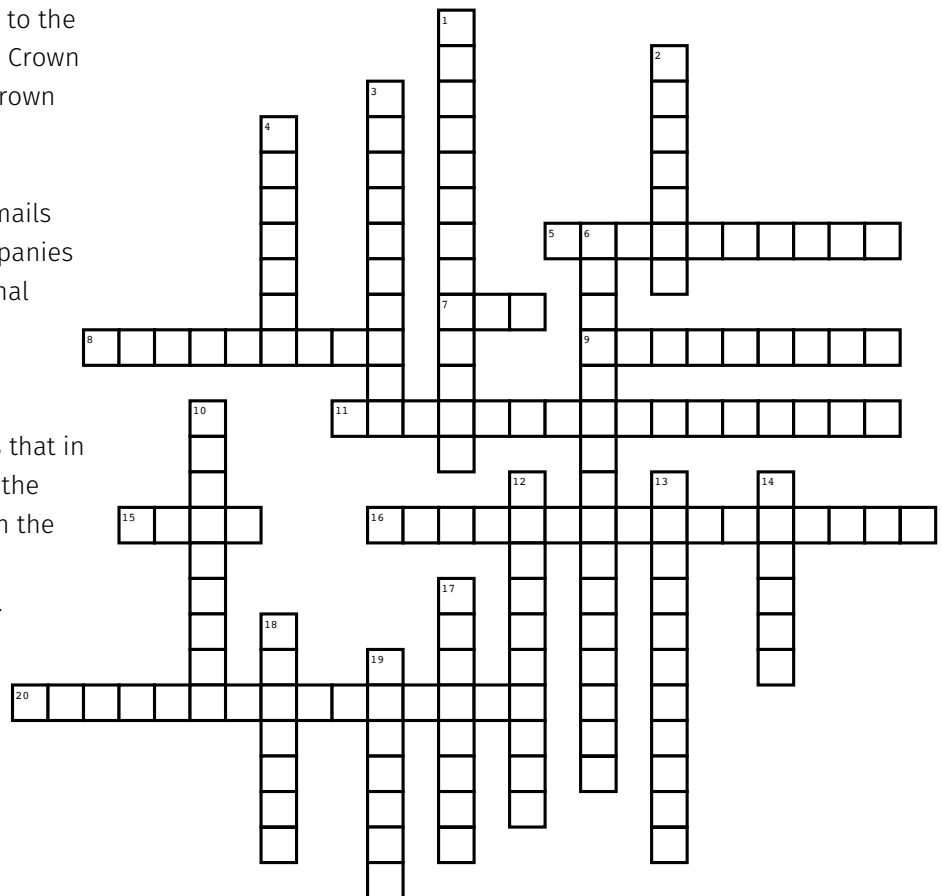
POLICE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Down:

1. Physical evidence left behind at a crime scene or exchanged between an **offender** and a victim.
2. A suspect who has been charged with a crime.
3. Any place in which a crime occurred or in which evidence relating to a possible crime has been located.
4. A legal order authorizing a police **officer** or other **official** to enter and search the premises.
6. The questioning of a witness by the opposing lawyer.
10. A written and witnessed statement of evidence that the maker swears and signs as proof of its truth.
12. Duty requiring the Crown to provide the accused with access to all information in its possession that relates to the investigation.
13. R v _____ (1991) is a Supreme Court of Canada case in which the Court decided unanimously that the Crown has a duty to disclose all relevant evidence to the defence whether it hurts or helps the Crown case and regardless of whether the Crown intends to call that evidence at trial.
14. Also called *mens rea*.
17. The fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies to induce individuals to reveal personal information (passwords, credit card numbers, etc.).
18. A reasonable expectation of _____ test demonstrates that in a specific circumstance a person has the right to be free from state intrusion in the form of a search.
19. Lying while under oath or **affirmation**.

Across:

5. A substance that burns rapidly and will start and encourage a fire.
7. Deoxyribonucleic acid.
8. The **officer** often in charge of a criminal investigation.
9. Police supervisors responsible for the supervision of police constables who ensure the quality of the response to calls for service.
11. Police responses to requests from the public, including immediate responses to calls and follow-up investigations.
15. A national law enforcement computer database maintained by the RCMP containing data on aspects of police investigations. (Abbr.)
16. An unintentional tendency to seek information or interpret evidence that confirms our hypotheses and avoid information that would disprove them.
20. Witnesses with specialized knowledge in particular subjects.



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Adapted from glossary of *Evidence and Investigation: From the Crime Scene to the Courtroom*, 3rd Edition by Kerry Watkins, Gail Anderson & Warren Bulmer. Published by Emond Publishing.

View Crossword Answer Key:
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