

Editor's Introduction to Search & Seizure Guidebook, 2026 edition

Written in plain English, *Search and Seizure Law Guidebook* often serves as a first-line resource for law enforcement officers who need to quickly determine when a warrant is required, whether a situation involves exigent circumstances, and whether consent has been given. The straightforward question-and-answer format covers:

- Federal law regarding Fourth Amendment basics, warrants, and situations where warrantless searches occur, with consent, in plain view/plain feel, on abandoned property, and at common areas
- Important state cases and differences among state laws

Highlights of the 2026 edition include:

- New section addressing use of force in seizures (§ 1:8)
- Discussion of whether shooting a car to restrain its driver effects a seizure (§ 7:14)
- Enhanced discussion of the emergency aid exception (§ 9:4)
- Additional discussion regarding parolee and probationer searches (§ 12:12)
- New section covering what courts consider a “container” in regard to searches (§ 15:1)