

1. **Affidavit**- A written statement of facts, confirmed by the oath or affirmation of the party making it and made before a person having the authority to administer the oath or affirmation.
2. **Arrest**- To take into custody a person suspected of criminal activity. Police may use only reasonable levels of force in making an arrest.
3. **Arrest Warrant**- A written order, based on probable cause and issued by a judge or magistrate, commanding that the person named on the warrant be arrested by the police.
4. **Consent Searches**- Searches by police that are made after the subject of the search has agreed to the action. In these situations, consent, if given of free will, validates a warrantless search.
5. **Custodial Interrogation**- The questioning of a suspect after that person has been taken in to custody. In this situation, the suspect must be read his or her Miranda rights before interrogation can begin.
6. **Custody**- The forceful detention of a person, or the perception that a person is not free to leave the immediate vicinity.
7. **Exclusionary Rule**- A rule under which any evidence that is obtained in violation of the accused's rights under the Fourth, Fifth, or Sixth Amendments, as well as any evidence derived from illegally obtained evidence, will not be admissible in criminal court.
8. **Exigent Circumstances**- Situations that require extralegal or exceptional actions by the police. In these circumstances, police officers are justified in not following procedural rules, such as those pertaining to search and arrest warrants.
9. **Frisk**- A pat-down or minimal search by police to discover weapons; conducted for the express purpose of protecting the officer or other citizens, and not to find evidence of illegal substances for use in a trial.
10. **Fruit of the Poisoned Tree**- Evidence that is acquired through the use of illegally obtained evidence and is therefore inadmissible in court.
11. **Interrogation**- The direct questioning of a suspect to gather evidence of criminal activity and try to gain a confession.
12. **Miranda Rights**- The constitutional rights of accused persons taken into custody by law enforcement officials. Following the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, on taking an accused person into custody, the arresting officer must inform the person of certain constitutional rights, such as the right to remain silent and the right to counsel.
13. **Plain View Doctrine**- The legal principle that objects in plain view of a law enforcement agent who has the right to be in a position to have that view may be seized without a warrant and introduced as evidence.
14. **Probable Cause**- Reasonable grounds to believe the existence of facts warranting certain actions, such as the search or arrest of a person.
15. **Search**- The process by which police examine a person or property to find evidence that will be used to prove guilt in a criminal trial.
16. **Search Warrant**- A written order, based on probable cause and issued by a judge or magistrate, commanding that police officers or criminal investigators search a specific person, place, or property to obtain evidence.

17. **Searches and Seizures**- The legal term, as found in the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, that generally refers to the searching for and the confiscating of evidence by law enforcement agents.
18. **Searches Incidental to Arrests**- Searches for weapons and evidence of persons who have just been arrested. The fruit of such searches is admissible if any items found are within the immediate vicinity or control of the suspect.
19. **Seizure**- The forcible taking of a person or property in response to a violation of the law.
20. **Stop**- A brief detention of a person by law enforcement agents for questioning. The agents must have a reasonable suspicion of the person before making a stop.
21. **Warrantless Arrest**- An arrest made without first seeking a warrant for the action; permitted under certain circumstances, such as when the arresting officer has witnessed the crime or has a reasonable belief that the suspect has committed a felony.