



In the Hot Seat: Preparing Law Enforcement for Trial Testimony

After the Presentation

Email → Evaluation Form, Certificate of Completion, Recording, & Copy of Slides.



Pre-Approved Continuing Education Accreditations

Attorneys → AL, FL, KY, OH, MS, NE, TX,
WA, WV

Law Enforcement → OK



Roadmap

**Crime
Scene**



**Court
Preparation**



**Witness
Stand**



Crime Scene

- How Good Reports Can Help “Future You”

Good reports are the ultimate (and sometimes only) memory aids when preparing to testify.

Bad reports are confusing and give the defense ammo on cross.

Keep reports simple, straightforward, and clear.

The image shows a screenshot of a Guardify Incident & Defense Report form. The form is titled "INCIDENT & DEFENSE REPORT" and features the Guardify logo at the top left. It is divided into several sections: "EVENT", "CHARGES", "VICTIM", and "SUSPECT". Each section contains a table with fields for personal and case information.

EVENT				
REPORTED DATE/TIME	OCCURRED DATE/TIME	INCIDENT TYPE	LOCATION	CASE #
09/01/2022 12:01:00	09/01/2022 12:01:00		100 1ST ST GUARDIFY, NE 10001	2022-0001

CHARGES		
#	CODE/DESCRIPTION	C-COMMITTED / A-ATTEMPTED
1	1A-1-1a	C

VICTIM			
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	DOB / AGE
STATE OF GUARDIFY			
SSN NUMBER	HAIR/EYES	RACE/SEX	HEIGHT/WEIGHT
ID NUMBER	PHONE #	ADDRESS	

SUSPECT			
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	DOB / AGE
Defendant	Doe	Demo	01/01/01
SSN NUMBER	HAIR/EYES	RACE/SEX	HEIGHT/WEIGHT
000-00-0000			0'0"/000
ID NUMBER	PHONE #	ADDRESS	
0000000	000-000-0000	1000 1ST COURT, GUARDIFY, NE 10001	

Rutledge, D., California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, It's Easy To Write Better Police Reports (www.ojp.gov)



Crime Scene

- How Good Reports Can Help “Future You”

NARRATIVE

“I, Deputy Ford, am currently assigned to the Clean Streets Task Force. While on patrol near the intersection of 100 VidaNyx Avenue and 1000 Discovery Street, I observed a black Nissan Altima proceed through the redlight without stopping. I activated my blue lights, and the vehicle immediately pulled over.

The vehicle was occupied by two WFs. When Driver rolled down the window, I detected the smell of marijuana. Driver was ID'd as Jane Doe. Front Passenger was ID'd as Betty Doe. I asked if there were any drugs or weapons in the vehicle.

She said had a Glock 26 in her glove box. Doe said she had some marijuana in her pocket book.”



“I detected the smell of marijuana.”



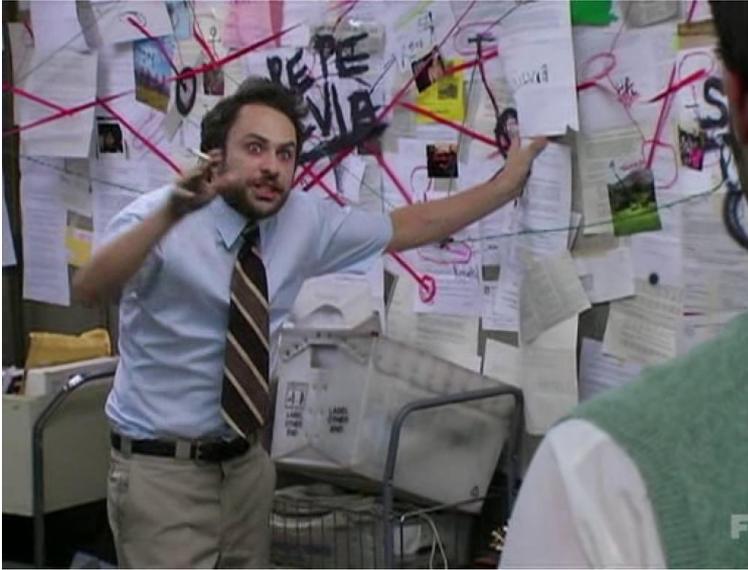
“I smelled marijuana.”



Crime Scene

- How Good Reports Can Help “Future You”

She said had a Glock 26 in her glove box. **Doe** said she had some marijuana in her pocket book.”



“Doe” “She”



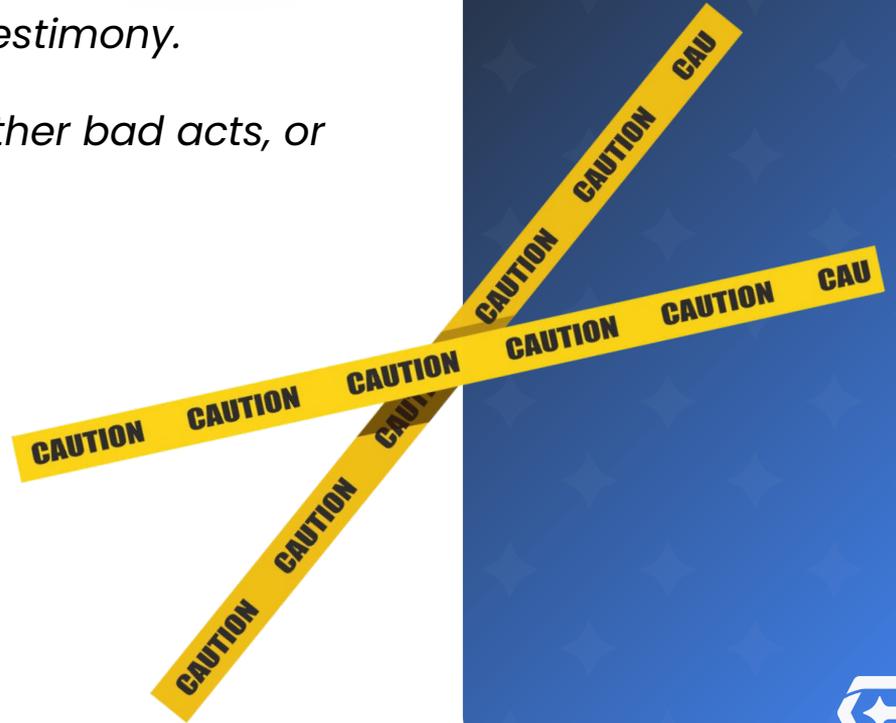
“Driver, Passenger,
Suspect 1, Suspect 2, F/L
Names”

Crime Scene

- Capturing Details without Sacrificing Simplicity or Time

Details aid in corroborating evidence/testimony.

Details could help establish patterns, other bad acts, or identity of serial/repeat offenders.



Crime Scene

- Capturing Details without Sacrificing Simplicity or Time

NARRATIVE
“... Victim stated that Suspect struck her in the face causing her nose to bleed. She also stated that he choked her while he held a blade to her throat...”



“..causing her nose to bleed.”



“..causing her nose to bleed. I observed dried blood in the corners of her nose.”



Crime Scene

- Capturing Details without Sacrificing Simplicity or Time

NARRATIVE

“... Victim stated that Suspect struck her in the face causing her nose to bleed. She also stated that he choked her while he held a blade to her throat...”



“..blade..”



“..held a pink pocket knife.”



**ATTENDANCE
CODE:**

97530



Roadmap

**Crime
Scene**



**Court
Preparation**



**Witness
Stand**



Court Preparation

- Communication

Share contact information with each other.

Notify LEOs (and other key witnesses) of the trial date ASAP and keep them in the loop.

Set up an in-person meeting closer to trial.



Court Preparation

- Communication

Trial Date, State v Defendant, VNSO #, Drug Poss.

1 message

Brittany Ford <brittany.f@vidanyx.com>
To: Brittany Ford <brittany.f@vidanyx.com>

Thu, Dec 1

Hi Deputy Ford,

Defendant's trial is set for the week of 1/9/23. He has rejected our plea offer and is first out for trial.

We need to meet to prepare before the trial. Are you available on 12/29 at 1pm?

I have attached a copy of the I/O report and BWC for your reference to review before we meet.

Please let me know if you are aware of any conflicts you have for the trial date.

You can reach me via email or at the number and extension below.

Brittany
555-555-5555 EXT 555



Court Preparation

- Court Prep with Prosecutor

Come prepared and be respectful of each other's time.

Walk through the incident in question, but do not "rehearse."

Review exhibits to be admitted and possible predicate questions.

Work out logistics (date/time, on call, subpoenas, etc.)



Roadmap

**Crime
Scene**



**Court
Preparation**



**Witness
Stand**



Witness Stand

- Direct Examination

Direct examination of LEO is done by the state (99% of the time).

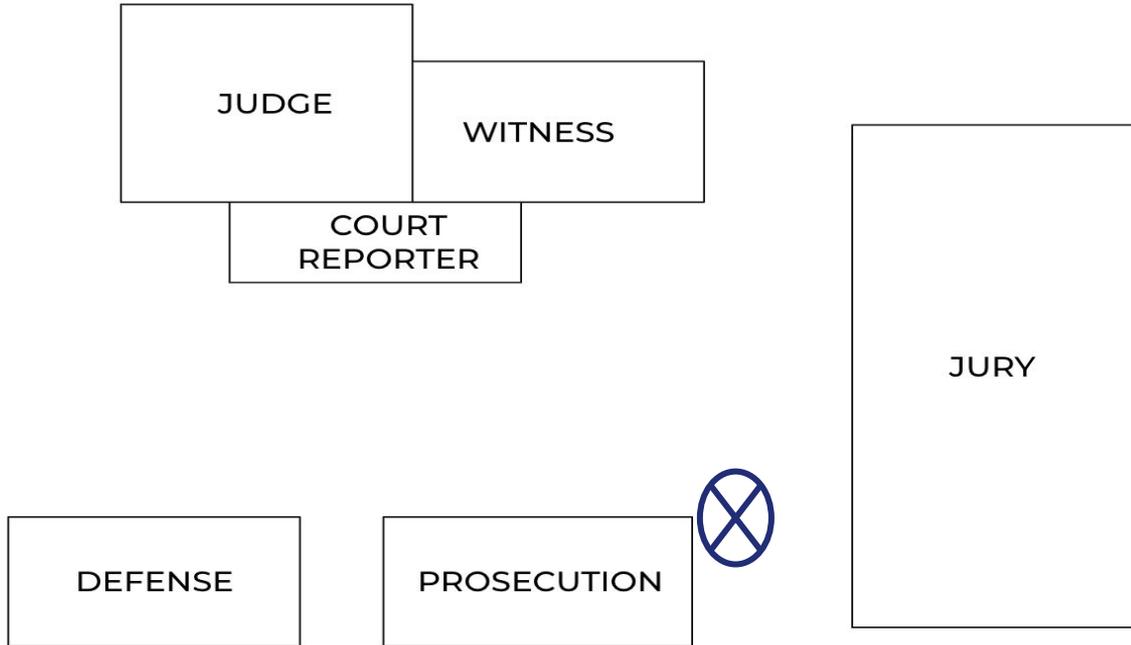
Open Ended Questions → Who? What? How? When?

Common Questions: Background, Jurisdiction, Identification



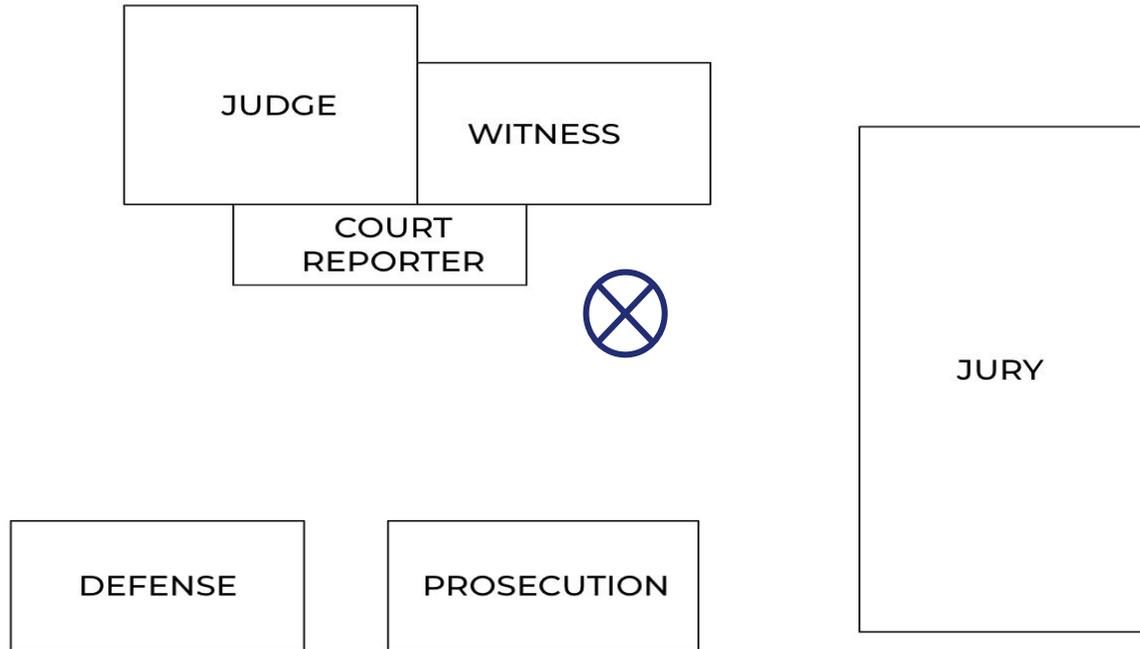
Witness Stand

- Direct Examination



Witness Stand

- Cross Examination



Witness Stand

- Cross Examination

Cross examination of LEO is done by the defense (99% of the time).

Leading Questions → Yes or No Answers

Defense Goals: Annoy, Fluster, Force Concessions, Attack Credibility, Create a Reasonable Doubt

Prosecutor will object if/when necessary. Stop talking and wait for the Judge to rule on the objection.



Witness Stand

Do's

Good Posture, Be Attentive

White/Blue Button Down or Agency Polo

Speak Clearly

Look at the Jury

Stick to the Facts

Only Answer the Question Asked

Remember to Breathe

Don'ts

Argue with the Defense

Answer a Question You Don't Understand

Be Afraid to Say You Don't Remember

Look at the Prosecutor for an Answer

Wear Firearm (if possible)

Chew Gum

Fail to Appear



Roadmap

**Crime
Scene**



**Court
Preparation**



**Witness
Stand**



Reminders

Email → Evaluation Form, Certificate of Completion, Recording, & Copy of Slides.

Attorneys → AL, FL, KY, OH, MS, NE, TX, WA, WV

Law Enforcement → OK





In the Hot Seat: Preparing Law Enforcement for Trial Testimony