



# HOST AGENCY: COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COURTROOM TESTIMONY: A COP'S PERSPECTIVE

**JULY 15-16,  
2025**

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register at [www.PATC.com](http://www.PATC.com) or [click here](#) to view more course information and register.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

Explore the essentials of crime scene investigation, evidence analysis, and case preparation in this comprehensive course. Learn crucial techniques such as crime scene photography, blood pattern analysis, and digital evidence retrieval. Understand the importance of follow-up investigations, search warrants, and effective case management. Gain practical skills through investigative checklists tailored for different death scenes.

#### TRAINING LOCATION

Columbus, Ohio Division of Police  
Training Academy  
1000 North Hague Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43204

#### HOTEL ACCOMIDATIONS

Drury Inn & Suites  
88 E. Nationwide Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 624-221-7008  
Contact Hotel for State Govt. Rate

#### QUESTIONS?

[www.PATC.com](http://www.PATC.com)  
1-800-365-0119



**TYLER SUTHERLAND**  
Instructor

# Courtroom Testimony: A Cop's Perspective

Instructor: Tyler Sutherland has been a police officer for over 19 years with the Battle Creek Police Department, in Battle Creek MI. He is currently assigned to his police department's Detective Bureau and is the owner of Resilient Response LLC, a Law Enforcement Training Company, established in the state of Michigan. Before being promoted to Detective, Tyler Sutherland worked as a road patrol officer for five years, and then assigned to the police department's Gang Suppression Unit for 8 years. Tyler received his bachelor's degree from Adrian College, while majoring in criminal justice, and a minor in psychology.

As a member of the Gang Unit and Detective Bureau, Tyler Sutherland has been the lead investigator in several gang and violent crime cases involving evidence with cell phones, social media, drug investigations, writing and executing search warrants, surveillance techniques, undercover drug buys, managing confidential informants, and interview and interrogation techniques. These investigations resulted in several hundred hours of courtroom testimony and trial experience for Tyler. While participating in all aspects of gang investigations and court room prosecution, Detective Sutherland, has been qualified as, and testified as a gang expert, in U.S. Federal Court, Michigan State Circuit Court, and Michigan State District Court, several times his police career.

In addition, Detective Tyler Sutherland has also been recognized in Michigan State District Court and Circuit Court as an expert in drug trafficking, identifying armed subjects, and cell phone records analyses. Detective Sutherland is a Defensive Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, a Patrol Training Officer, a Task Force Officer for Homeland Security Investigations, and an adjunct teaching instructor at Kellogg Community College Police Academy. After several hundred hours of training, education, research, and on the job experience, Tyler has developed several Law Enforcement Training Courses within Resilient Response LLC., such as Officer Safety Tactics, Street Gang Investigations and Gang Expert Testimony, Understanding Use of Force, and Courtroom Testimony.

## Course Description:

This course is designed to improve your skills in testimony, increase your awareness of the court system processes, and help you understand your role in describing the elements of the crime to a judge or jury in a reasonable light. The initial investigation, arrest, or traffic citation is only the beginning stage of a long legal process. This class will discuss details involved in your initial court hearing, suppression hearings, explanations and descriptions of physical evidence, expert testimony, witness testimony issues, and closing statements by the attorneys. One of the most important tools often overlooked during the training cycle of law enforcement officers, is how to win in court when the defense attorney attempts to distract the jury with claims of insufficient evidence, lazy police procedure, and inconsistent witness testimony. The instructor in this course will provide useful tools on the importance of police report documentation to help you recover in the courtroom after a witness provides incomplete testimony or fails to provide complete details on the witness stand. This class will provide you with the foresight, and attention to detail, to consider at your next investigation to win over the jury in your future courtroom presentation.

## Course Objectives

- ☐ Testimony mistakes made involving interviews, search, seizure, and pretext stops.
- ☐ Report Writing Challenges
- ☐ Documentation of Crime Scene Details
- ☐ Getting Witnesses on Board
- ☐ What the lead investigator needs to know.
- ☐ Your relationship with the Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, and Judge.
- ☐ Stages of Witness Testimony and controlling your emotions during testimony.
- ☐ Expert Witness Testimony.
- ☐ Defense Attorney Tactics.
- ☐ Lessons Learned, and the Impact your testimony has on a Jury's decision.

# Courtroom Testimony: A Cop's Perspective

## Course Length

Two Day Class, 8 hours each day, 16 total hours.

## PREREQUISITES and AUDIENCE REQUIREMENTS

This class is intended for sworn law enforcement officers, and/or, prosecuting attorneys/district attorneys (Federal and State).

## TEXT

Hand out containing pertinent course topics and information.

## ATTENDANCE

Participants are expected to be punctual, prepared, and take an active role in participation for the duration of this course.

## COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Attendees must sign in each day of training and be present during instruction periods to receive a course certificate of completion.

## DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this syllabus was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use. The instructor reserves the right, acting in accordance with any standing departmental policies, to make changes in course content or instruction techniques without notice or obligation.

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Identification, Notebook, and a pen/pencil.

Class Schedule (Start Time can be accommodated to begin at 8am or 830am)

### Day One (8hrs)

- 0830 to 1000 – How Report Writing and Case Law affects your Testimony.
- 1000 to 1130 – Use of Force, Search and Seizure Testimony.
- 1130 to 1300 – Lunch on your own
- 1300 to 1400 – Search and Seizure Testimony / Officer Standards and Credibility.
- 1400 to 1630 – Interview and Interrogation Testimony.

### Day Two (8hrs)

- 0830 to 0930 – Defense Attorney Tactics.
- 1000 to 1130 – Courtroom Procedure and Mental Preparation.
- 1130 to 1300 – Lunch on your own
- 1300 to 1400 – Mock Preliminary Exam Exercise.
- 1400 to 1500 – Lead Investigator Testimony.
- 1500 to 1630 – The Impact your testimony has on closing arguments.