

East Central Illinois Mobile Law Enforcement Training Team

MTU #13

651 Jackson St., Rm327
Charleston, Il. 61920
Telephone 217-345-3344



Course Announcement

Gypsy and Traveler Crime Investigation

October 19th, 2021

0830 - 1630 Hrs

MTU 13 Police Training Center

3121 Dewitt Avenue

Mattoon, Il.

Submit enrollment to:

Registration form at

www.mtu13.com,

ecimlett@gmail.com

Or call 217-345-3344

I have long stated that the most important thing we can do in this career is to protect the weak. This is a course about investigating those crimes that prey on some of the weakest in our community, the elderly, the emotionally despondent. These victims could be your neighbors or your parents or grandparents or other family members. I've had this class years ago myself, it is definitely worth attending. They are in YOUR neighborhoods.

This one day, eight-hour seminar will acquaint investigators and police officers with identifying, investigating, prosecuting, and preventing Gypsy and Traveler crimes. The course is intended to provide participants with a basic understanding of Gypsies and Travelers and the specific crimes they are known to commit. The different Gypsy and Traveler factions will be discussed, as well as the particular crimes they are each known to commit.

Additionally, officers will be given a comprehensive handout including additional information, commonly used surnames, and detailed history of specific families/clans.

The class is highly recommended for detectives and patrol officers who have had little or no contact with Gypsies and Travelers and the crimes they commit.

Observed Mandates Include:

Civil rights

Con Use of LE Authority

Cultural Competency

Legal Updates

Procedural Justice

Topics covered will include:

- The basic history of Gypsies/Travelers, including culture, customs, lifestyle, social behavior, family structure.
 - Specific Gypsy and Traveler crimes including: Home Repair Fraud, Residential Burglaries, Home Invasion, Fortune Telling, Shoplifting, Scrap Metal Theft and various other swindles.
 - Suspect identification
 - Investigative techniques
 - Dealing with suspects
- Interviewing victims
Locating suspects
Successful prosecution tips
State statutes and local ordinances pertaining to Gypsy and Traveler crimes
Crime prevention strategies
Proactive Tactics
Interviewing suspects
Understanding the mindset of these types of criminals
Use of informants



Groups Discussed

American Gypsies
Yugoslavian Gypsies
Polish Gypsies
Spanish Gypsies
Bosnian Gypsies
Irish Travelers
Scottish Travelers
English Travelers

Common Gypsy and Travel Crime and Fraud

Home Repair Fraud
Ruse Entry
Fortune Telling
Scrap Metal Thefts
Shoplifting
Check and Credit Card Fraud
Insurance Fraud (Slip and Falls)
Residential Burglaries
Home Invasions
Carnival Game Fraud
Welfare Fraud

Instructor:

Bruce Walstad was with the Franklin Park Police Department from 1975 to 2001. For the last 16 years he was an Investigator and Juvenile Officer.

Since 1985 Bruce has been presenting training seminars to law enforcement throughout the country. Bruce has instructed for such agencies and law enforcement training providers as: *The Illinois State Police, Louisiana State University, Denver Police Department, The Illinois Attorney General's Office, IPTM, St. Louis Police Department, The National Sheriff's Association, Mobile Police Department, St. Paul Police Department, FBI, New Hampshire Police Training and Standards Council, Lincoln Police Department, Connecticut State Police, Montgomery Police Department and the Chicago Police Department.*

Bruce has also presented countless talks and seminars for various businesses, groups, clubs, and senior citizen organizations. He has appeared on many local and national TV shows including: *48 Hours, Oprah, Justice Files, Inside Edition, FOX News, NBC News, Geraldo, The Today Show, Court TV, Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, Dateline and CBS News.*

He has also authored numerous articles on Confidence Crime, Fraud, Gypsy and Traveler Crime, Home Repair Fraud and other related topics. For eight years, Bruce served as president of Professionals Against Confidence Crime, which is an international law enforcement organization that exchanges information for fraud.

Bruce has presented variations of this class for the past 30 years throughout the country.