



CRIMINAL DEFENSE CHECKLIST

911 CALLS

The 911 calls can be important because there may be more than one. The callers may have witnessed something that is helpful your case.

POLICE REPORTS

Most reports are an account told to a Police Officer. Often the Officer is not a witness rather a reporter. You need a skilled Investigator to dissect the report for accuracy. In addition, you need to compare the 911 Calls with the report to determine contradictions. The Officer has a lot of power when it comes to determining a victim versus a perpetrator. In self-defense cases there is often some gray to determine who is the victim.

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Your attorney and a Police Policy Expert should determine if the Probable Cause Statement is valid. Is the stop legal? This is one of the first things I review.

CRIME SCENE and ARREST LOCATION (video)

Did the Police protect the crime scene? Did the Police preserve the evidence? These are important questions that must be examined. I often go to the crime scene when I work a case to see if there is video that was not collected by the Police. Often neighbors and businesses have cameras that may shed light on the incident.

VICTIM

The Police Officer investigating will make the determination of who the victims are based on witnesses, the crime scene experts etc. Often forensic evidence has not been analyzed by experts prior to the Police determining who the victims are? A skilled attorney and Police Policy Expert need to examine how these conclusions were determined.

WITNESSES

The witnesses need to be interviewed by a capable attorney or Private Investigator. Interviewing is art form, and this part of the defense should not be taken lightly. In addition, a background check should be performed prior to the interview.

GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS

The transcripts need to be examined by professional to determine the accuracy of the account given to the Grand Jury and if they have the credentials to testify regarding evidence. An example might be a Police Detective that is not a ballistics expert, that gives testimony regarding ballistics evidence without the expertise to evaluate the evidence. Or the testimony is a hypothesis of what happened when the forensics have not been tested by experts. In other words, often a Grand Jury will convene without the forensic evidence (tested) when presented to the Grand Jury.

BRADY LIST

The Brady List is a list that Prosecutors compile on Police Officers that have sustained incidents of untruthfulness or candor or even criminal behaviors. These Officers may have a credibility issue.

BODY CAMS (redacted)

Most Police Officers were body cameras, and this video must be examined by your Counsel or Investigator. These videos are redacted. You may need an expert to examine the videos to build chronology of the taped events as well as find the gaps from the redactions.

AVL (automatic vehicle locator)

This is technology that locates the Police Vehicle for time and day. This is another source of information that help your case. If an Officer says he was at given location this technology can verify the location.

WATCHGUARD VIDEO

Some police departments are using this video system. It's boasted as being state of the art video with a panoramic view. It can be used in high velocity situations. It also has LPR, License Plate Recognition.

EXPERTS

Experts can make or break a case. There are numerous types of experts. The following are examples of experts you may need for you case, such as: Arson Investigation, Ballistic Expert, Blood Alcohol Testing, Bloodstain Pattern Expert, Cellular Forensics, Fingerprint Expert, Police Policy Expert, Computer Forensics, Criminalist, DNA Testing, Medical Examiner, Sexual Assault Expert, Toxicology Expert and Video and Voice Expert.