

Kelly Couch

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Emergency Vehicle Operations, Pursuits & Emergency Response, Patrol Tactics, Investigative & Police Procedures Qualifications

Since 1986, I have held investigative and analytical roles in law enforcement and investigation roles, including positions as a police officer, police detective, abuse investigator, loss prevention agent and law enforcement trainer. Since 2016, I have specialized in law enforcement training, focusing on emergency vehicle operations, pursuit tactics, pursuit decision-making, and patrol tactics including traffic stops. My experience includes skill-based and scenario training, classroom instruction, and facilitated learning in the area of emergency vehicle operations. During my career I have held the following positions:

- 2022-Present: Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST): Part-time Tactical Instructor / Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor
- 2022- Present: Managing owner of Couch Consulting LLC providing consulting and expert witness services
- 2016-2022: Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training full-time Tactical Instructor / Emergency Vehicle Operations Lead Instructor
- 2013-2016: State of Oregon Department of Human Services: Investigator 3 - Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigation
- 2013-2015: Licensed Private Investigator - Self Employed Private Investigator
- 2001-2012: City of Brentwood California Police Officer
 - 2001-2003: Patrol Officer
 - 2002-2005: Field Training Officer
 - 2005-2009: Major Crimes Unit Detective
 - 2009-2012: Patrol Officer
 - 2002-2012: Department Lead Medical Trainer
- 1999-2001: Town of Moraga California: Police Officer

- 1992-1994: Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department: Reserve Deputy Sheriff
- 1989-1999: Saint Mary's College of California: Public Safety Officer and Sergeant
- 1986-1988: Loss Prevention Agent- K-Mart Corporation / PayLess Drugs

Since August 2022 I have been employed as a part-time Tactical Instructor and Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor by the State of Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). DPSST is a state-wide training facility training all police officers and providing in-service training to officers state-wide. As a part-time Instructor I provide skills-based training, classroom training and facilitated discussion and scenario-based training to police recruits.

From August 2022 through December 2022, I functioned as a paid consultant filling the role of District Safety Manager for the McMinnville Oregon School District. The district includes nine schools with a student population of approximately 6500. In that role I implemented new standard response protocols for active threats in schools and developed and presented safety training to the entire district staff both in person and through an on-line video that I produced. I attended threat assessments, conducted safety inspections and aided staff with their respective safety committees among other duties. I aided in the successful recruitment of a full-time safety manager to fill the role prior to my departure.

Between 2016 and 2022 I was employed full-time by DPSST as a Tactical Instructor and as the Emergency Vehicle Operations Lead Instructor. In addition to providing skills-based training, I also functioned as a scenario evaluator and use of force evaluator. These scenarios involved trainees interacting with role players in realistic law enforcement scenarios. Scenarios involved fact gathering, interview skills, making assessments to determine if a crime occurred and probable cause existed and utilizing investigative techniques. I provided training, coaching and feedback related to accepted law enforcement practices for conducting police investigations, tactical officer safety skills, and in vehicle stops to include unknown-risk and high-risk traffic stops.

My main assignment at DPSST beginning in 2017 was as the Lead Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor. I regularly provided classroom training, facilitated classroom

discussions, scenario training and skills training to police recruits and in-service training to current police officers state-wide. I have had a role in training thousands of police officers during my employment by DPSST. I played a vital role in the development and amendment of state-wide emergency vehicle operations and pursuit management curriculum. I continually evaluated and amended both classroom presentations and driving exercises to provide the most beneficial and relevant training to recruits. I was often contacted by constituents state-wide with questions about emergency vehicle operations and state standards related to emergency driving and pursuit management. I continue to follow the latest law enforcement emergency driving trends and case law through my continued employment as a trainer, review of published research, membership in professional organizations, attendance of professional training symposiums and other methods.

Between 2013 and 2016, I served as an Investigator for the State of Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigations (now the Office of Training Investigation and Safety). I conducted comprehensive investigations into allegations of abuse and neglect involving adults with physical or developmental disabilities and mental illness. My responsibilities included interviewing victims, witnesses, and other relevant parties; reviewing medical and psychiatric records, surveillance footage, and patient treatment plans; and preparing detailed investigative reports. I also took part in case reviews, collaborated with attorneys, and provided depositions in cases involving contested employee terminations.

Between 2013 and 2015, I was a self-employed licensed Private Investigator (Oregon PSID 060919). I managed multiple cases, including a homicide investigation dating back thirty years. In this case, I effectively identified and interviewed key witnesses, subsequently preparing comprehensive reports for the client. I worked on a criminal case as an assigned court investigator, completed background checks, handled complicated process services and other related tasks. After accepting a full-time position as a state Abuse Investigator, I shifted focus to my full-time work.

From 2009 until 2012 I served as a patrol officer for the City of Brentwood, California after completing my assignment as a Detective in the Major Crimes Unit. My duties as a patrol officer are documented below.

Between 2005 and 2009, I served as a Detective in the Major Crimes Unit of the Brentwood Police Department, investigating homicides, violent crimes, robberies, and other major offenses. I collaborated with agencies such as the FBI, U.S. Secret Service, IRS, and U.S. Postal Inspectors, acting as the department liaison for both the FBI bank robbery task force and a retail theft task force. For the final two years, I primarily led investigations into unattended deaths and violent crimes, preparing detailed reports and search warrant affidavits, executing warrants, and collecting evidence. I worked closely with the District Attorney's office to present serious cases and regularly testified in court. After completing my assignment as Detective in 2009, I returned to patrol duties until my retirement in 2012.

Between 2002 and 2005, I served as a Field Training Officer with the City of Brentwood Police Department in California. My duties encompassed the training and oversight of newly appointed officers, including both recent academy graduates and experienced officers. I provided coaching, guidance, preliminary approval of written reports, and aided officers in law enforcement training, investigations, and mentoring across a range of incidents, including assaults, thefts, death investigations, domestic violence, DUI, traffic incidents, and other criminal and non-criminal matters.

In 2001, I began my employment as a Police Officer with the City of Brentwood, California. My roles included department trainer, Field Training Officer, and Major Crimes Unit Detective. I conducted proactive patrols, responded to calls for service, investigated criminal cases, collected and preserved evidence, and made arrests based on probable cause. I prepared detailed police reports, submitted cases to the District Attorney as appropriate, and frequently testified in court.

In 1999, I joined the Moraga, California Police Department as a Police Officer. I conducted initiative-taking patrols, responded to service calls, and independently investigated incidents due to limited detective staff. I was responsible for tasks such as interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects, gathering evidence, making arrests, writing reports for the District Attorney, and providing testimony in court. I managed a wide range of criminal cases, such as felony assault and various offenses against individuals.

From 1992 through 1994 I served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for the County of Contra Costa California for the contract city of San Ramon. As a Reserve Officer in San Ramon, I was normally assigned to work as a two-person patrol unit providing police services to the City of San Ramon. These services consisted of proactive patrol as well as responding to service calls. Responding to service calls often involved investigating both ongoing incidents and crimes that had already taken place. These investigations required the interview of victims, witnesses and suspects, the collection and preservation of evidence and other investigative techniques and making arrests.

Between 1989 and 1999, I served as a Public Safety Officer at Saint Mary's College of California, overseeing campus safety for approximately 4,000 students, including 1,600 residents. My responsibilities included proactive patrols, incident response and investigation, report writing, and collaboration with local law enforcement. I was promoted to Night Shift Supervisor (Sergeant), where I supervised officers, approved reports, trained new staff, and contributed to the development and implementation of departmental policies and training programs. I also managed crowd control and safety during athletic and special events.

From 1986 to 1988, I was employed as a Loss Prevention Agent for K-Mart Corporation and Payless Drugs (now Rite-Aid). My duties encompassed identifying and detaining individuals involved in shoplifting, as well as conducting thorough investigations into employee theft. I conducted numerous investigations using surveillance, interviews, and record reviews, and collaborated with law enforcement when necessary. I prepared detailed reports and managed restitution agreements as part of the investigative process.

Education Certifications & Training

Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, CA 1985-1988 - Criminal Justice

California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Certifications:

Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Certifications

State of Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

- Oregon Law Enforcement Trainer
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor/ SkidCar System Operator
- Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) Instructor

Publications: “The Danger of Tire Deflation Devices in Police Pursuits” – A discussion of the importance of providing adequate training in the deployment of tire deflation devices. - PORAC Law Enforcement News magazine- April 2024 edition

“Navigating Danger- Intersection Risks and Siren Limitations in Emergency Response” - A discussion of the risks of emergency vehicles navigating intersections and the limitations of sirens. – PORAC Law Enforcement News magazine- February 2026 edition

Educational Groups and Forums

Member of ALERT International - Association of Law Enforcement Response Trainers

Member of Police Driving and EVOC Group; Law Officer Tactics, Technology and Training; Law Enforcement Network (LinkedIn educational groups)

PORAC (Peace Officers Research Association of California) Retired Associate Member

Oregon Peace Officers Association Member

OPOA Background Investigator -2022

Sample of Training Received:

- ALERT International member conference – 2025
- AELE Expert Witness training symposium – 2023
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor /SkidCar Systems Instructor
- Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) Instructor – State of Oregon
- Use of Force Application and Evaluation 2018 – State of Oregon
- State of Oregon Law Enforcement Trainer
- Field Training and Evaluation – CA POST approved
- Basic Collision Investigation – CA POST approved
- Interview and Interrogation Techniques- CA POST approved
- Sexual Assault Investigation – CA POST approved
- Examination of Drug Users/Drug Abuse Recognition Evaluator CA POST approved
- Shooting Reconstruction Workshop – Contra Costa Sheriffs Crime Lab
- Computer Crimes and On-Line Child Exploitation – CA POST approved
- Digital Crimes Investigation Techniques – NCCCTF
- Identity Theft Investigations - NCCCTF
- Brentwood Police Department Lead Medical Trainer 2003-2012