

Kelly Couch

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

Since 1989, I have held investigative and analytical roles in the law enforcement and investigation field, including positions as a police officer, police detective, abuse investigator, 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 training experience includes skill-based and scenario training, classroom instruction, and facilitated learning in emergency vehicle operations and patrol tactics. During my career I have held the following positions:

- 2023-Present: Contract Expert Witness for Titan National Consulting Group LLC
- 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

Since 2023 I have contracted with Titan National Consulting Group providing expert witness services to clients across the United States. I have collaborated with leading law firms on cases related to police procedures, such as false arrests, use of force, pursuits, PIT maneuvers, and traffic incidents during emergency responses. In this role I have testified in Federal Court on matters involving emergency vehicle operations, traffic stop tactics, PIT maneuvers and the use of force. My focus is on emergency vehicle operations incidents, but I can also assist with investigative and procedural and training matters.

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 Oregon police officers and providing in-service training to officers state-wide. As a part-time Instructor I provide skill-based training, classroom training and facilitated discussion and scenario-based training to police recruits.

Between August and December 2022, I served as District Safety Manager for McMinnville Oregon School District, overseeing nine schools with about 6,500 students. I introduced new standard response protocols, delivered safety training to staff in person and via video, participated in threat assessments, conducted inspections, supported safety committees, and helped recruit a permanent safety manager before 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 skill-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 the 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. Constituents from across the state frequently reached out to me with inquiries regarding emergency vehicle operations and the standards governing 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 part-time 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. I interviewed involved parties, reviewed records and video, and prepared 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 that 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, managed 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. The responsibilities I carried out as a patrol officer are outlined in the section 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, emergency driving, 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. I safely operated an emergency vehicle during routine patrol and during emergency responses and vehicle pursuits.

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. My duties included interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects; collecting evidence; making arrests; preparing reports for the District Attorney; and

testifying 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. During my time as a Reserve Officer in San Ramon, I typically served in a two-person patrol unit delivering police services throughout the city. The services included proactive patrol operations and responses 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.

From 1989 to 1999, I worked as a Public Safety Officer at Saint Mary's College of California, ensuring campus safety for roughly 4,000 students. My responsibilities encompassed conducting patrols, responding to incidents, preparing detailed reports, and collaborating with local law enforcement agencies. In my role as Night Shift Supervisor (Sergeant), I provided leadership to officers, facilitated training for new personnel, reviewed and authorized reports, oversaw policy development, and coordinated crowd control operations during public events.

Education Certifications & Training

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

California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Certifications:

POST Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Certifications

PC 832 Certificate (Reserve Officer Certification)

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 – Reprinted in American Police Beat Magazine – March 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

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
- Oregon Peace Officers Association Background Investigations -2022
- 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
- Advanced Shooting Reconstruction Workshop – Contra Costa Sheriffs Crime Lab
- Computer Crimes and On-Line Child Exploitation – CA POST approved
- Digital Crimes Investigation- NCCCTF
- Identity Theft Investigations- NCCCTF
- Internet Stings- ICAC Task Force
- Brentwood Police Department Lead Medical (CPR/AED/Bloodborne Pathogens) Trainer 2003-2012