

Kelly Couch

McMinnville, Oregon ~ 971-232-2074 ~ CouchConsultLLC@gmail.com

Emergency Vehicle Operations, Pursuit Management, Investigative & Police Procedures Qualifications

Since 1986 I have been employed in positions that require investigative skills in law enforcement, private investigations, and other investigative matters. I have worked for several employers as a loss prevention agent, police officer, public safety officer, law enforcement detective, abuse investigator, and law enforcement trainer. Since 2016 I have been involved in law enforcement training with a focus in emergency vehicle operations, emergency response, pursuit driving, pursuit decision making skills and tactical patrol skills. This has included skill-based training, scenario training, state law and case law review, classroom presentation and facilitation and discussions related to decision making. During my career I have held the following positions:

- 2022-Present: Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training: 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 acted 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 almost 7000. In that role I assisted in the implementation of new standard response protocols for active threats in schools and I 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, did safety inspections and assisted staff with their respective safety committees among other duties. I assisted 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 trainer. These scenarios involved trainees interacting with role players in realistic law enforcement scenarios. These scenarios involved fact gathering, interview skills, making assessments to determine if a crime occurred and probable cause existed and utilizing investigative techniques to resolve the issue. I regularly provided training, coaching and feedback related to law enforcement generally accepted practices for conducting law enforcement investigations. I also provided training in vehicle stops to include unknown-risk and high-risk traffic stops.

My main assignment at DPSST starting 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 officers state-wide. I have had a role in training over 2000 police officers during my employment by DPSST. I regularly receive positive recruit feedback about my classroom training style and methods in anonymous recruit surveys. I was instrumental in the development and amending of the state-wide emergency vehicle operations and pursuit management curriculum. I continually evaluated and amended both classroom presentations and track exercises to provide updated 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 keep up on 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 and other methods.

Between 2013 and 2016 I was employed by the State of Oregon Department of Human Services as an Investigator for the Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigations (currently the Office of Training Investigation and Safety). In this role I completed thorough investigations of allegations of abuse and neglect of people with physical disabilities, adults with developmental disabilities or mental illness. This included the interview of alleged victims, witnesses, responsible parties, physicians, and others involved in the treatment of the patients. These investigations required the review of evidence from a variety of sources including medical and psychiatric records, video surveillance review, patient treatment plans, interviews of alleged victims and witnesses, chart notes and other sources. At the completion of these investigations, I drafted detailed and accurate investigative reports of my findings. I participated in case-reviews if requested by the agency, cooperated with attorneys, and provided deposition testimony at times when my findings resulted in the termination of employees who challenged their termination.

Between 2013 and 2015 I was a self-employed licensed Private Investigator (Oregon PSID 060919). I worked on several cases including a 30-year-old case related to a homicide where I successfully located and interviewed witnesses and documented my findings to the client. I worked on a criminal case as an assigned court Investigator, completed background

checks, handled difficult 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 California Police Department. In this capacity I investigated a variety of types of crimes including homicides, unattended deaths, robberies, felony assaults, sex crimes and numerous others. I worked with outside law enforcement agencies including local police agencies, the FBI, the U.S. Secret Service, The Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Postal Inspectors, and other local law enforcement agencies. I was the agency liaison for the local FBI bank robbery task force and a retail organized theft task force. The last two years of my assignment I functioned as the lead Detective for all homicide, unattended deaths, and violent crimes cases. During my assignment I investigated or assisted in the investigation of dozens of violent crimes including homicides, assaults, and weapons violations. I was required to complete detailed and accurate reports and search warrant affidavits when necessary. I served numerous warrants and collected evidence based on these warrants. I worked closely with the District Attorney's office in presenting the most serious cases in-person for review of criminal charges. I was often required to testify in court based on my investigations. In 2009 after completing my assignment as a Detective I returned to the patrol division where I resumed the duties of a patrol officer as indicated below, before retiring in 2012.

From 2002-2005 I served as a Field Training Officer for the City of Brentwood, California Police Department where I was assigned to assist in the training of newly hired Police Officers. These trainees included both new officers directly from the law enforcement training academy and seasoned officers with many years of experience. In addition to providing training, coaching and guidance to new officers I also functioned as their direct supervisor and gave preliminary approval of their written crime reports. I assisted assigned officers in all types of law enforcement training and mentoring including conducting investigations into a variety of types of crimes and incidents including assaults, thefts, death investigations,

domestic violence incidents, DUI investigations, traffic incidents and numerous other criminal and non-criminal matters.

In 2001 I was hired as a Police Officer for the City of Brentwood, California, where I held several auxiliary duties including department trainer, Field Training Officer, and Major Crimes Unit Detective as documented above. As a patrol officer I was assigned to both proactively patrol the city and to respond to calls for service for both in-progress incidents and crimes and incidents which had already occurred. These investigations required the interview of victims, witnesses and suspects, the collection and preservation of evidence, and making arrests as appropriate when probable cause existed. I accurately documented my findings in police reports and submitted reports to the District Attorney when appropriate. I personally investigated hundreds of criminal cases and made arrests when probable cause existed. I was often required to testify in court based on my arrest reports.

In 1999 I was hired as a Police Officer for the Town of Moraga California. My duties as a police officer included proactive patrol and response to call for service. Calls often required the investigation of incidents and crimes both in progress and crimes that had already occurred. Because the agency only had one full-time Detective, patrol officers were often required to complete investigations without the assistance of the Detective. These investigations required the interview of victims, witnesses and suspects, the collection and preservation of evidence, and making arrests as appropriate. I accurately documented my findings in police reports and submitted reports to the District Attorney and testified in court as required. I personally investigated numerous criminal cases including several felony assaults and other crimes against persons.

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 included both proactive patrol and response to call for service. Calls for service often required the investigation of incidents and crimes both in progress and crimes that had already occurred. These investigations required the interview of victims, witnesses and suspects, the collection and preservation of evidence and other investigative techniques and arrests when appropriate.

Between 1989 and 1999 I was employed as a Public Safety Officer at Saint Mary's College of California (non-sworn campus safety). My varied duties included assisting with the safety and security of students, visitors, faculty, and staff at a campus of approximately 4000 students, approximately 1600 who resided in campus housing. In addition to proactive patrol of campus grounds on foot and in a vehicle, I regularly responded to incidents both criminal and non-criminal. I investigated these incidents including information gathering, interviews of victims, suspects and witnesses, evaluation of evidence and making arrests when probable cause existed. I completed reports based on my findings and when necessary, worked with other law enforcement agencies to share accurate information based on my investigations. I often assisted with crowd control and safety during athletic events and other special events. I was promoted to night shift supervisor (Sergeant) where I was responsible for the general supervision and oversight of night shift officers and the approval of any written reports generated by officers. I was responsible for training new officers, and I was instrumental in the research and implementation of a department policy manual and training program.

From 1986 through 1988 I was employed as a Loss Prevention Agent for the K-Mart Corporation and later Payless Drugs (currently Rite-Aid). My job functions included the detection and apprehension of shoplifters and the detection and investigation of employee thefts. I was responsible for the detection and investigation of dozens of employee theft cases and numerous shoplifting investigations. Investigations of external thefts involved the use of various investigative techniques including surveillance on the sales floor and hidden positions, the confrontation of suspected shoplifters and the detention of the subjects once they exited the business. I completed detailed reports of my observations, completed company forms including restitution agreements and at times worked with the local law enforcement agencies to make private-person arrests. Employee theft investigations utilized varying techniques including surveillance, review of sales records and other techniques to identify losses and the interview of employees suspected of theft. These cases often required the completion of detailed investigative reports and cooperation with local law enforcement to prosecute responsible parties.

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” PORAC Law Enforcement News magazine- April 2024 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

OPOA (Oregon Peace Officers Association) Member

OPOA Background Investigators Member

Sample of Training Received:

- Americans for Effective Law Enforcement Expert Witness Symposium (2023)
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor/ SkidCar System Operator
- Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) Instructor
- ALERT International Member conference 2019
- Use of Force Application and Evaluation 2018
- Interview and Interrogation Techniques (POST approved)
- Sexual Assault Investigation (POST approved)
- Field Training and Evaluation (POST approved)
- Digital Crimes Investigation Techniques (North California Computer Crimes Task Force)
- Identity Theft Investigations - Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force
- Computer Crimes and On-Line Child Exploitation (POST approved)
- Shooting Reconstruction workshop (Contra Costa Sheriff's Crime Lab)
- Examination of Drug Users/Drug Abuse Recognition Evaluator (POST approved)
- Brentwood Police Department's lead First-Aid, CPR, and AED Instructor (2003-2012)
- State of Oregon Law Enforcement Trainer (2016- Present)