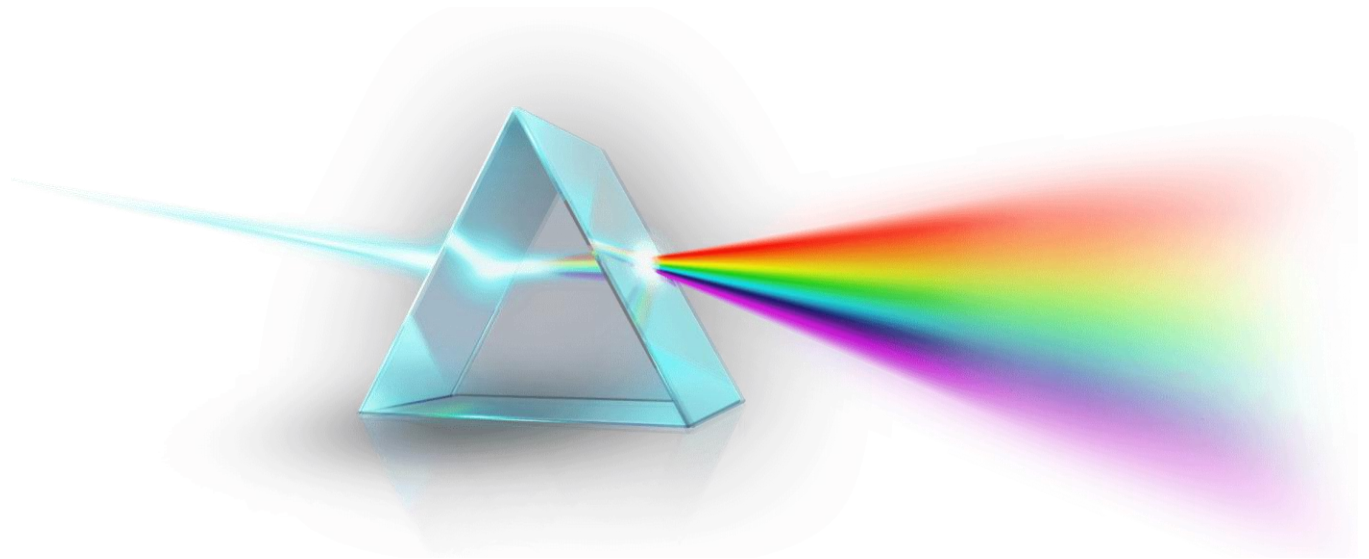


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MPTC

Municipal Police Training Committee



**Policing Through the
Trauma Informed Prism**

2023

IN-SERVICE SYLLABUS

Overview

“If every age has its symptoms, ours appears to be the age of trauma,” Professors Nancy Miller and Jason Tougaw conclude in *Extremities: Trauma, Testimony, and Community*. It is a work that asks and explores how we come to terms with what cannot be forgotten and bear witness to those experiences that challenge the limits of language.

This year’s in-service theme is “Policing Through the Trauma Informed Prism.” The class offerings not only explore the questions asked in *Extremities* in the law enforcement context, but also—and more importantly—offer frontline officers ready-to-use legal, digital, cultural, cognitive, and emotional tools they need for today’s job.

The contour that forms this year’s theme is the growing body of research that affirms the unequivocal truth that trauma informed policing leads to better outcomes: for the people and the communities we serve, the departments in which officers work, for their families, co-workers, and, ultimately, themselves.

Structure

Brains “short circuit” after prolonged activity and stop processing and encoding information. In line with the best practices of education, in-service classes are framed around fifty-minutes of content delivery followed by a ten-minute break. For all classes except Legal Update, these three parts of the class also act as a beginning, middle, and end to the story of trauma each tells.

Sequence

DAY 1

All Day **Legal Update**

Author Denise Flagg, MPTC Legal Issues Coordinator

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Identify the latest changes in caselaw regarding the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments, as well as general criminal law.
2. Evaluate and explain how to apply these changes to current policing practices.

DAY 2

***Morning* Frontline Digital Evidence**

Author Detective Sergeant Kevin Connolly, Barnstable Police Department

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Identify and preserve physical and cloud-based sources of digital evidence.
2. Formulate how to seize different sources of digital evidence properly and legally.
3. Appraise the value of exculpatory and inculpatory evidence.

***Afternoon* Trauma Informed Policing**

Author Superintendent of Bureau Field Services Lanita Cullinane, Boston Police Department

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the various forms of trauma, as well as their wider impacts.
2. Describe the extent to which trauma transforms and shapes cognitive and behavioral functioning.
3. Evaluate how to integrate trauma-informed approaches into policing practices.
4. Assess the relationship and point of intersection between trauma and cultural competency.

DAY 3

***Morning* Officer Response to Interpersonal Violence**

Author Maura Landry, MPTC Domestic, Sexual Violence, Human Trafficking Coordinator

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Describe their legal obligations and best practices of trauma informed investigations of sexual assaults, human trafficking, and domestic violence.
2. Explain on scene responsibilities of interviewing involved parties, proper documentation, and any notifications or referrals needed to close out the scene.
3. Summarize how to conduct a “whole person” missing child investigation that considers the totality of the physical, behavioral, emotional, and cognitive circumstances of the victim, as well as activate appropriate resources.

Afternoon **Duty to Intervene**

*Authors Denise Flagg, MPTC Legal Issues Coordinator
Officer Charles DiChiara, MPTC Defensive Tactics Coordinator
Steven Cromack, MPTC Curriculum & Instruction Specialist*

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Summarize the federal and state legal precedents as well as general concepts regarding duty to intervene.
2. Examine the totality triangle and apply it to duty to intervene concepts.
3. Analyze scenarios and incidents to determine whether excessive force was used, if the officers had a duty to intervene, and any legal or civil liability.

DAY 4:

Morning **Hate Crimes**

*Authors Steven Cromack, MPTC Curriculum & Instruction Specialist
Hallie Dyer, MPTC Intern (Fitchburg State University)*

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Define terminology relevant to bias offenses.

2. Distinguish between hate crime and hate incident and determine appropriate action steps.
3. Assess how past events remain relevant to hate crimes today and shape victim underreporting.
4. Identify the types of trauma and the goals of trauma informed hate crimes investigations.
5. Analyze scenarios to determine whether relevant reporting information was gathered.

Afternoon **212 Degrees: Preventing Officer Crises**

Authors *Officer David Augusta, Lawrence Police Department*
Deputy Chief Steven DeMarco, M.I.T. Police Department
Steven Cromack, MPTC Curriculum & Instruction Specialist

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will be able to:

1. Recognize the signs of crises within themselves and other officers and explain how to activate appropriate resources.
2. Identify and assess the physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral signs of critical incident stress.
3. Evaluate the ways an officer can manage stressors and trauma to prioritize personal health and wellness, as well as that of families and colleagues.
4. Appraise various systemic actions departments can take to support the mental health and wellbeing of its officers.

Online Option

An online option is being prepared and will follow the format of in-person training: fifty minutes of content delivery followed by a ten-minute break.

Timeline

Instructor training for the various classes begins **August 1, 2022**, so that classes can begin starting **September 15, 2022**.

Instructor Training

All those who wish to instruct any In-Service class for the MPTC must be a certified instructor no matter where you teach. To become a MPTC certified instructor, potential instructors must do the following:

1. Complete the Train-the-Trainer class for one of the above topics.
2. Have completed, and already documented in ACADIS, either the **3 Day Academic Instructor Training (formerly non-PTAC) Class** (For Duty to Intervene, the Tactical Instructor Training, formerly 3 Day “PTAC” class,), or the 6 Day Instructor Development class. Any instructor that has not taken either the 3 Day or 6 Day Class **MUST successfully complete the 3 Day Academic Instructor Training** class to be approved to teach an In-Service Class.
3. Wait 2-3 days after the class is closed. When the status of the class appears as “Completed” in your ACADIS portal, apply for certification in the topic in ACADIS. Download and follow the [Instructor Certification Application User Guide](#) to complete the Instructor Application (Webform) via Acadis.

Please note, this instructor certification process includes in-service training offered within individual departments. **Any officer who attends an in-service program that is not taught by a MPTC certified instructor will not receive credit for that class.**

Teaching for the MPTC

Any instructor that wishes to teach and get paid by the MPTC must also:

1. Complete a state contract application.
2. Comply with Executive Order #595, which **requires** Executive Department employees to have received COVID-19 vaccination or to have been approved for exemption as of their start date. Details relating to demonstrating compliance with this requirement will be provided during the contractual application process. Instructors who can provide documentation that the vaccine is medically contraindicated or who object to vaccination due to a sincerely held religious belief may make a request for exemption.