



Course Title: Maine Search Warrants

MLEAP Standard: This course meets MLEAP Standard 7.08 – Search and Seizure Warrants

Time: 7 hours

Instructor: Paul Cavanaugh

Course Description: This course is designed to help officers understand and effectively draft search warrants, with a focus on those new to the process or seeking a refresher. Through clear, straightforward instruction and in class writing exercises, participants will learn how to build solid affidavits, articulate probable cause, and meet constitutional and statutory requirements. The course emphasizes critical thinking over template use, encouraging officers to craft legally sound documents tailored to specific investigative situations. Practical group exercises allow attendees to apply their knowledge, receive feedback, and refine their skills in real-world scenarios.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the structure and constitutional requirements of search warrant documents and affidavits.
- Develop and articulate probable cause, including relevant personal background to support it.
- Draft search warrants for dwellings, vehicles, and persons using legally sound methods.
- Learn how and when to amend warrants, seal affidavits, and handle informant confidentiality.
- Navigate the review, approval, and execution process of search warrants with confidence.