Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

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Mobile Team Unit #1 is funded in partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

The Law and Science of Cannabis

DATE: January 13, 2027 **Registration Ends**: January 1, 2027

TIME: 8:00 AM—4:00 PM 8 Hours

LOCATION: Highland Community College, Building H, Room H-210, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd, Freeport, IL

INSTRUCTOR: David Christiansen

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Cannabis legalization has dramatically changed the landscape of law enforcement in Illinois. Officers are now expected to distinguish lawful from unlawful conduct, recognize emerging cannabis products, understand rapidly evolving case law, and make sound enforcement decisions within constitutional boundaries. This course provides a practical, research-based examination of cannabis, combining legal updates, impairment science, product identification, and real-world enforcement considerations. Participants will leave with immediately applicable knowledge and resources designed to improve decision-making, report writing, investigations, and courtroom testimony.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Law and Science of Cannabis is an 8-hour, instructor-led training program designed for patrol officers, supervisors, investigators, prosecutors, and other justice professionals. Based upon the textbook The Law and Science of Cannabis: A Practical Guide for Legal Professionals in Illinois, this course combines current scientific research, Illinois law, case law developments, and practical field application.

Participants will examine modern cannabis products, including flower, concentrates, edibles, vapes, tinctures, hemp-derived products, and emerging cannabinoids such as THCA, Delta-8 THC, THC-P, HHC, and others. Instruction includes visual product identification, impairment science, toxicology limitations, DUI-drug investigations, vehicle searches, workplace considerations, and evolving enforcement challenges created by cannabis legalization.

Special emphasis is placed on practical decision-making through the use of real-world examples, case studies, legal updates, scientific research, and visual learning aids. Participants will receive a comprehensive full-color reference guide and leave with tools that can be immediately applied in the field.

WHAT SETS THIS COURSE APART:

- Full-color visual instruction featuring modern cannabis products and packaging
- Current Illinois cannabis laws and recent appellate court decisions
- Scientific research on cannabis impairment and DUI investigations
- Practical report-writing and articulation strategies
- Real-world case studies and enforcement scenarios
- Coverage of THCA, Delta-8 THC, hemp products, and emerging cannabinoids
- Full-color training manual and laminated guides included with registration

COURSE GOALS:

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify and differentiate modern cannabis products, concentrates, hemp-derived products, and emerging cannabinoids
- Explain the effects of cannabis on the body and the limitations of toxicology testing

The Law and Science of Cannabis

- Interpret and apply Illinois cannabis laws governing possession, transportation, medical cannabis, recreational cannabis, and industrial hemp.
- Recognize indicators of cannabis impairment and apply those observations during DUI-drug investigations.
- Evaluate current Illinois case law affecting vehicle searches, cannabis odor investigations, and enforcement authority.
- Distinguish lawful cannabis possession from unlawful conduct and articulate enforcement decisions.
- Improve report writing, courtroom testimony, and documentation related to cannabis investigations.
- Apply current scientific research to cannabis-related enforcement decisions.

This course has been certified by the ILETSB and approved to meet the following mandates:

- Legal Updates – 3.25 hours
- Civil Rights - 1.75 hours
- Const. Use of LE Authority - 1.0 hours
- Procedural Justice – 1.0 hours

REGISTRATION:

All registrations are received on the MTU#1 website. Find Registration instructions here

Partial funding provided by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING