

# Managing Street Informants



8-Hour Course

## Course Information

Supplying information to law enforcement can be as casual as a passing comment or as sophisticated as a network of informants delivering detailed information on criminals and their activities. Understanding how to identify potential sources of information and cultivating them to become credible informants is a difficult task.

This course will prepare you to manage informants and also help you understand the legal aspects of informant use. Examples of informant contracts and agreements are included and the human issues of motivating and cultivating informants are explored. Practical techniques that deal with scenarios, problems, and solutions should help every officer become more effective in their use of informants to prevent crime.

## Course Instructor

Craig Michaels is a Special Agent Supervisor with the California Department of Justice and has been a law enforcement officer in California since 1980. He spent 15 years assigned to narcotics, working as a Task Force Agent, Task Force Supervisor, Special Agent with the Department of Justice, Special Agent Supervisor, and Deputy U.S. Marshal assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Mr. Michaels has done extensive undercover work at both the state and federal level, and has spent half his narcotic career investigating methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution operations. He is a former officer of the California Narcotic Officers Association, and has taught for them extensively, as well as teaching for the Department of Justice Advanced Training Center and the Western States Information Network.

## Course Outline

### I. Who are Informants?

- A. Nobody Likes a Rat
- B. Sammy the Bull
- C. Why Use Informants?
- D. How to Use Informants
- E. Officer Introductions

### II. Who is Reliable?

- A. Making a Buy
- B. Who Are Informants?
- C. Citizen Informants
- D. Law Enforcement Informants
- E. Firsthand Information
- F. How Long Is Someone Reliable?
- G. Verify the Information

### III. Informant Motives

- A. Determining Motives
- B. Money As a Motive
- C. Revenge
- D. Good Citizens
- E. Wanna-bes
- F. Eliminate Competition
- G. Answer the Phone
- H. Arrests
- I. Crack on Everybody
- J. Don't Make the Informant a Better Crook
- K. Get, Don't Give Information

### IV. Department Policy

- A. Parole and Probation
- B. Prosecutors and Judges

### V. Pitfalls and Problems

- A. Practical Considerations
- B. Will Informants Testify?
- C. Major Investigations
- D. Area Intelligence Units
- E. When Things Go Wrong
- F. Slick Operator
- G. Juvenile Informants

### VI. Maintain a Professional Relationship

- A. Informant Package
- B. Inactive Informant Files
- C. Pending Charges
- D. Be Specific With Informant
- E. "Operation Swordfish"
- F. Act Like a Crook
- G. Breaking the Law
- H. Informants and Attorneys
- I. Informant Contracts
- J. Informant Protection
- K. Jailhouse Informants

### VII. Common Scenarios

- A. Informant Instructions
- B. Search Warrants
- C. The Hobbs Rule: Sealing Affidavits
- D. Civil Liabilities