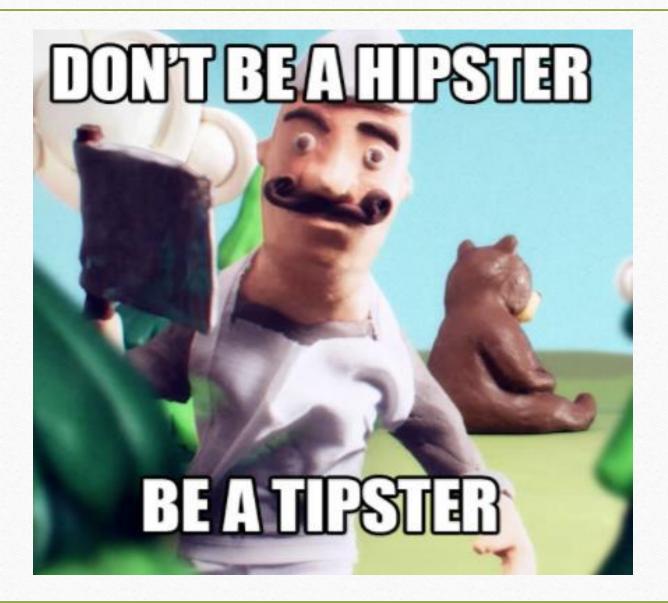
## Protecting the Tipster

Detective Wendy Hummell

Coordinator, Wichita Sedgwick County Crime Stoppers



#### Learning Objectives

- What is the role of the Crime Stoppers coordinator and/or staff in taking and handling of anonymous tips?
- What is Tip Sanitization?
- What is Funneling?
- What should I do if I get a records request or a subpoena?

#### Whose tip is it anyway?

- Crime Stoppers Organization
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutor
- Defense Attorney

#### Whose tip is it anyway?

Do not include this tip sheet in any case files or mention Crime Stoppers in any reports. Refer to information as an "anonymous tip". This document is property of Wichita/Sedgwick County Crime Stoppers and is protected information as defined in K.S.A. 60-436. Email the completed Crime Stoppers Disposition Return Sheet to the Crime Stoppers Coordinator (coordinator@wichitasedgwickcountycrimestoppers.com) then destroy this tip sheet.

#### Corporate v. Public Records

- Definitions vary from State to State, so <u>KNOW YOUR</u>
  <u>LOCAL LAWS</u>
- Handling of records is determined by statute; both Federal and State.

### What should I do if I get a Subpoena?



# How to Protect the Tipster from Themselves



#### General Guidelines

- Gender neutral
- Avoid familial references
- REDACT



No tips via Social Media/Email

### Example of "Tipster Tell All"

• "Jane Doe, She's My Mother And She's Always Coming Home High And On Drugs i Know This Because She Leaves The Drugs And Pills Sitting Around The House, Which Is Not Good At All Because Her 6 Year Old Son Could Get Ahold Of That And Get Sick. She's Always Gone And Never Here To Help Out My Dad, She's Alway Out Spending Food Money On Marijuana Or Other Drugs. I Don't Know Where She Gets It From But She Does Have Messages In Or On Her Phone About Buying It. She's Always Putting Drugs Before Her Own Family. I Know This Because I Live With Her And Witness It Every Day. She Smokes On Her Way To Her Weekend Jail And Anywhere Pretty Much."

### Sanitizing the Tip



"Jane Doe, She's My Mother And She's Always Coming Home High And On Drugs. i Know This Because She Leaves The Drugs And Pills Sitting Around The House, Which Is Not Good At All Because Her 6 Year Old Son Could Get Ahold Of That And Get Sick. She's Always Gone And Never Here To Help Out My Dad at home, She's Always Out Spending Food Money On Marijuana Or Other Drugs. I Don't Know Where She Gets It From But She Does Have Messages In Or On Her Phone About Buying It. She's Always Putting Drugs Before Her Own Family. I Know This Because I Live With Her And Witness It Every Day. She Smokes On Her Way To Her Weekend Jail And Anywhere Pretty Much."

#### Robbery Tip

#### **Narrative**

I just had info from a friend that my brother who is staying at my apt on south Seneca may have robbed a convenient store so I did a search and discovered that a store was robbed near my apt on August 19th. His name is XXXX XXX of ponca city Oklahoma. My apt is at kingsborough apt Z10. My name is XXXX XXXX phone number is 316-XXX XXX

#### **General Information**

Offense Type: Robbery

Address of Incident: 2700 s Seneca

City, State, Zip: Wichita ks

#### Robbery Tip



#### Narrative

- I just had info from a friend that Joseph Newman may have robbed a convenient store so I did a search and discovered that a store was robbed at 2700 S. Seneca on August 19th. He is from ponca city Oklahoma. He is staying at kingsborough apt Z10.
- General Information
- Offense Type: Robbery
- Address of Incident: 2700 s Seneca
- City, State, Zip: Wichita ks

### What is Funneling?

- The practice by Law Enforcement of referring informants whose identities are known to Crime Stoppers Programs after having contact with Law Enforcement
- Rules should define and prohibit the practice



