

Protecting the Tipster

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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 **KNOW YOUR LOCAL LAWS**
- 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 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.”

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 XXXXX 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



**Absorb what is useful,
Discard what is not,
Add what is uniquely
your own.**

Bruce Lee

Questions?

A black marker is shown drawing a curved line underneath the word "Questions?". The marker is positioned at the bottom right of the frame, with its tip pointing towards the end of the line. The word "Questions?" is written in a cursive, handwritten style on a sheet of white lined paper. The paper is mounted on a light brown wooden surface, with two dark brown horizontal strips on either side.