

# Failures in Criminal Investigations

## "The Top 100 Things a Detective Should Never Do"

December 10, 2013

Bellevue Police  
Department  
Bellevue, WA

### Topics Covered

- The Three Phases of an Investigation: The Investigation, Arrest & Prosecution
- Standpoints regarding Specific Performance Objectives
- Various Mistakes during Arrest of Suspect
- Conduct an Accurate Interrogation
- Proper Research and Documentation
- How to Successfully Connect the Dots
- Final Prosecution Steps and Tips
- In-Depth Understanding of the 4 Important Viewpoints and their Mistakes

### Course Overview

As a Criminal Investigator, cases are worked whereas resolution is being sought. It does not matter whether you are investigating a burglary, theft, robbery, sexual assault or homicide, resolution is always the goal. Mistakes are made every day by detectives all across the country. Unfortunately detectives make mistakes or witness other detective's making mistakes and are unaware that anything is wrong. The humble investigator will not mind sharing his or her horror stories regarding this issue.

The trial process is the proving grounds for detectives because it's there where all the mistakes that were made during their investigation are discovered. Not only does this jeopardize the case, but a detective's career can be tarnished in a split second while on the witness stand.

The instructor has been in Law Enforcement for over 27 years and he has spent many of those years as a detective starting out investigating property crimes, assaults, and robberies. For the past six years, he has been assigned as a Homicide Detective. He confesses that over the years, he has made his fair share of mistakes, some that were costly. The instructor has also had the opportunity to travel across the country and converse with hundreds of detectives who investigate a wide variety of offenses. When talking to detectives, the subject of mistakes always surface.

The concept behind this course came from trial and error, court room experiences and the help from hundreds of detectives from across the country that the instructor solicited for their input.

The instructor also consulted with skilled criminal defense attorneys in preparing this course. Based on his own experiences and the feedback from other detectives and attorneys, the instructor compiled a list of over 250 "avoidable" issues/mistakes that have been costly when investigating cases.

The final phase in creating this course came from a summit arranged by the instructor. This summit consisted of 50 experienced detectives from across the country, four criminal prosecutors, and four criminal defense attorneys. Two members of the summit previously served as district judges. During this summit, the list was condensed down to the **TOP 100 THINGS THAT A DETECTIVE SHOULD NEVER EVER DO.**



### Course Tuition:

**\$125 per Officer**  
**\$100 Discount applies if 5 or more register at once**

Register at [www.pletraining.com](http://www.pletraining.com)  
or call Carolyn Boston:  
**281-639-8893**



# National Training Instructor

## Dwayne Thompson



### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Dwayne Thompson

is currently employed with the Dallas Police Department in Dallas, Texas. He has been a member of the department for 22 years. He has worked in the Homicide Unit for 6 years, and has been assigned to over 80 Homicides. He has assisted in the investigation of over 150 cases involving homicides, death investigations and suicides. Prior to entering the Homicide Unit, he spent 7 years investigating property crimes and 3 years investigating Robberies and Home Invasions.

Dwayne started his law enforcement career in 1984, as a correctional officer, with the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1985 and entered the Army's Military Police Corp, where he was promoted to the rank of Captain. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

Dwayne joined the Lawton Police Department in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1989, where he served for two years, before joining the Dallas Police Department in 1991.

Dwayne is a licensed instructor with the Texas Law Enforcement Training and Education Division. In 2006, he began teaching criminal investigation courses to criminal justice students and police recruits, while also serving as a presenter at various law enforcement conventions.

Dwayne is an energetic detective who has proven to be an effective investigator. He is the second investigator in the history of the Dallas Police Department to present a case and obtain a conviction for prosecution without having a body for evidence. Several of his homicide cases have been presented on *The First 48*, a national reality television show that profiles criminal cases.

Dwayne offers a fresh perspective and innovative approach to investigating crimes. He introduces proven techniques and unique methodologies that will enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement professionals. Dwayne is committed to sharing his experience and knowledge with others, as well as continuing to enhance his skills as a Homicide Investigator.

### Career Highlights:

- Spent over 22 Years with the Dallas Police Department
- Worked in Homicide Unit for 6 Years
- Assigned to Over 80 Homicide Cases
- Assigned to Over 150 Investigations involving Homicide, Death, & Suicide
- Spent 7 Years Investigating Property Crimes
- 3 Years of Robbery & Home Invasion Investigation Experience
- Well known for his Appearances in A&E's "First 48" Reality Show