



MPOETC CERTIFICATION STUDY GUIDE

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

Welcome and Congratulations!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a municipal police officer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Whether you're a recent graduate from one of our 18 certified police academies, returning to the profession, or transferring from another state or federal agency, we're excited to support you on your journey.

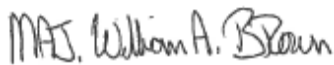
This study guide has been developed to help you prepare for the Pennsylvania certification exam. The exam is designed to assess both your general law enforcement knowledge and your understanding of Pennsylvania-specific laws and procedures.

This guide provides a structured outline of many of the topics that are covered on the exam. You should focus your preparation by familiarizing yourself with the topics contained in this study guide. Particular emphasis of your preparation should be on key areas including:

- The Pennsylvania Crimes Code (Title 18)
- The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code (Title 75)
- The Rules of Criminal Procedure (Title 234)

In addition to these statutes, the exam will also cover core topics every officer is expected to know, such as first aid, report writing, evidence handling, and community policing¹.

We're confident that if you've completed a certified law enforcement training program, you already have a strong foundation. This guide will help you sharpen that knowledge and feel confident on test day.



Major William A. Brown, Executive Director
Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

¹ It should be noted that while this outline contains many of the topics covered on the exam, it should not be considered to be an exhaustive list of all exam topics.

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

Table of Contents

TITLE 18 – CRIMES CODE.....	3
TITLE 23 – DOMESTIC RELATIONS	9
TITLE 35 – THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC ACT.....	10
TITLE 42 – JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE	10
TITLE 50 – MENTAL HEALTH	10
TITLE 75 – VEHICLE CODE.....	11
TITLE 225 – RULES OF EVIDENCE	19
TITLE 234 – RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.....	19
TITLE 237 – RULES OF JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURE	21
US CONSTITUTION – BILL OF RIGHTS	21
PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION	21
CASE LAWS	22
CRASH REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR POLICE	22
NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM / INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM	22
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.....	22
LEGAL UNDERSTANDINGS	23
PENNSYLVANIA AMBER ALERT	23
PENNSYLVANIA MEPA ADVISORY	23

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

TITLE 18 – CRIMES CODE

- Chapter 1 – General provisions
 - §103 - Definitions
 - §106 – Classes of offenses
- Chapter 3 – Culpability
 - §301 – Requirement of voluntary act
 - §302 – General requirements of culpability
 - §303 – Causal relationship between conduct and result
 - §304 – Ignorance or mistake
 - §305 – Limitations on scope of culpability requirements
 - §306 – Liability for conduct of another; complicity
 - §307 – Liability of organizations and certain persons
 - §308 – Intoxication or drugged condition
 - §309 – Duress
 - §310 – Military orders
 - §311 – Consent
 - §312 – De minimis infractions
 - §313 – Entrapment
 - §314 – Guilty but mentally ill
 - §315 – Insanity
- Chapter 5 – General Principles of Justification
 - §501 – Definitions
 - §502 – Justification a defense
 - §503 – Justification generally
 - §504 – Execution of public duty
 - §505 – Use of force in self-protection
 - §506 – Use of force for the protection of other persons
 - §507 – Use of force of the protection of property
 - §508 – Use of force in law enforcement

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §509 – Use of force by persons with special responsibility for care, discipline or safety of others
- §510 – Justification in property crimes
- [Chapter 9 – Inchoate Crimes](#)
 - §901 – Criminal attempt
 - §902 – Criminal solicitation
 - §903 – Criminal conspiracy
 - §907 – Possessing instruments of crime
 - §908 – Prohibited offensive weapons
 - §908.1 – Use or possession of electric or electronic incapacitation device
 - §912 – Possession of weapon on school property
 - §913 – Possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in court facility
- [Chapter 23 – General Provisions](#)
 - §2301 – Definitions
- [Chapter 25 – Criminal Homicide](#)
 - §2501 – Criminal homicide
 - §2502 – Murder
 - §2503 – Voluntary manslaughter
 - §2504 – Involuntary manslaughter
 - §2505 – Causing or aiding suicide
 - §2506 – Criminal homicide of law enforcement officer
- [Chapter 27 – Assault](#)
 - §2701 – Simple assault
 - §2702 – Aggravated assault
 - §2705 – Recklessly endangering another person
 - §2706 – Terroristic threats
 - §2707 – Propulsion of missiles into an occupied vehicle or onto a roadway
 - §2707.1 – Discharge of a firearm into an occupied structure
 - §2709 – Harassment
 - §2709.1 – Stalking
 - §2710 – Ethnic intimidation

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §2711 – Probable cause arrests in domestic violence cases
- §2718 – Strangulation
- §2719 – Endangerment of public safety official
- [Chapter 29 – Kidnapping](#)
 - §2901 – Kidnapping
 - §2902 – Unlawful restraint
 - §2903 – False imprisonment
 - §2904 – Interference with custody of children
 - §2905 – Interference with custody of committed persons
 - §2906 – Criminal coercion
 - §2908 – Missing children
 - §2909 – Concealment of whereabouts of a child
 - §2910 – Luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure
- [Chapter 30 – Human Trafficking](#)
 - §3001 - Definitions
 - §3011 – Trafficking in individuals
 - §3012 – Involuntary servitude
 - §3013 – Patronizing a victim of sexual servitude
 - §3014 – Unlawful conduct regarding documents
 - §3016 – Obstruction of justice
 - §3018 – Evidence and defenses to human trafficking
- [Chapter 31 – Sexual Offenses](#)
 - §3101 – Definitions
 - §3102 – Mistake as to age
 - §3104 – Evidence of victim’s sexual conduct
 - §3105 – Prompt complaint
 - §3107 – Resistance not required
 - §3121 – Rape
 - §3122.1 – Statutory sexual assault
 - §3123 – Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse
 - §3124.1 – Sexual assault

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §3125 – Aggravated indecent assault
- §3126 – Indecent assault
- §3127 – Indecent exposure
- §3129 – Sexual intercourse with animal
- §3130 – Conduct relating to sex offenders
- §3131 – Unlawful dissemination of intimate image
- §3133 – Sexual extortion
- [Chapter 33 – Arson, Criminal Mischief and Other Property Destruction](#)
 - §3301 – Arson
 - §3304 – Criminal Mischief
 - §3307 – Institutional Vandalism
- [Chapter 35 – Burglary and other criminal intrusion](#)
 - §3501 – Definition
 - §3502 – Burglary
 - §3503 – Criminal Trespass
- [Chapter 37 – Robbery](#)
 - §3701 – Robbery
 - §3702 – Robbery of motor vehicle
- [Chapter 39 – Theft and Related offenses](#)
 - §3901 – Definitions
 - §3903 – Grading of theft offenses and definitions
 - §3904 – Arrest without warrant
 - §3921 – Theft by unlawful taking
 - §3922 – Theft by deception
 - §3923 – Theft by extortion
 - §3924 – Theft of property lost, mislaid, or delivered by mistake
 - §3925 – Receiving stolen property
 - §3926 – Theft of services
 - §3927 – Theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received
 - §3928 – Unauthorized use of automobile and other vehicles
 - §3929 – Retail Theft

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §3934 – Theft from a motor vehicle
- §3935.1 – Theft of secondary metal
- §3936 – Theft of mail
- [Chapter 41 – Forgery and Fraudulent Practices](#)
 - §4101 – Forgery
 - §4105 – Bad Checks
 - §4106 – Access Device Fraud
 - §4117 – Insurance fraud
 - §4120 – Identity Theft
 - §4121 – Possession and use of unlawful devices
- [Chapter 43 – Offenses against the family](#)
 - §4304 – Endangering the Welfare of Children
- [Chapter 49 – Falsification and Intimidation](#)
 - §4902 – Perjury
 - §4903 – False Swearing
 - §4904 – Unsworn Falsification to authorities
 - §4905 – False alarm to agencies to public safety
 - §4906 – False reports to Law Enforcement
 - §4909 – Witness or informant taking bribe
 - §4910 – Tampering with or fabricating evidence
 - §4912 – Impersonating a public servant
 - §4914 – False identification to law enforcement
 - §4915.1 – Failure to comply with registration requirement (Megan’s Law)
 - (a), (e) (f)
 - §4952 – Intimidation of witnesses of victims.
 - §4953 – Retaliation against witness, victim or party
- [Chapter 51 – Obstructing governmental operations](#)
 - §5101 – Obstructing administration of law or other governmental function
 - §5102 – Obstructing or impeding the administration of justice by picketing, etc.
 - §5104 – Resisting arrest or other law enforcement
 - §5104.1 – Disarming law enforcement

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §5104.2 – Evading arrest or detention on foot
- §5105 – Hindering apprehension or prosecution
- §5112 – Obstructing emergency services
- §5121 - Escape
- §5126 – Weapons or implements for escape
- §5126 – Flight to avoid apprehension, trial or punishment
- [Chapter 55 – Riot, Disorderly Conduct and Related Offenses](#)
 - §5501 – Riot
 - §5502 – Failure of disorderly persons to disperse upon official order
 - §5503 – Disorderly conduct
 - §5505 – Public drunkenness and similar misconduct
 - §5506 – Loitering and prowling at night time
 - §5507 – Obstructing highways and other public passages
 - §5508 – Disrupting meetings and processions
 - §5510 – Abuse of corpse
 - §5531 – Definitions
 - §5532 – Neglect of animal
 - §5533 – Cruelty to animal
 - §5534 – Aggravated cruelty to animal
- [Chapter 57 – Wiretapping Electronic Surveillance](#)
 - §5702 – Definitions
 - §5703 – Interception, disclosure or use of wire, electronic or oral communications
 - §5704 – Exceptions to prohibition of interception and disclosure of communications
 - §5707 – Seizure and forfeiture of electronic, mechanical or other devices
- [Chapter 59 – Public Indecency](#)
 - §5901 – Open lewdness
 - §5902 – Prostitution and related offenses
- [Chapter 61 – Firearms and other dangerous articles](#)
 - §6102 – Definitions
 - §6105 – Persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms
 - §6106 – Firearms not to be carried without a license

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §6110.1 – Possession of firearm by minor
- §6110.2 – Possession of firearm with altered manufacturer's number
- [Chapter 63 – Minors](#)
 - §6301 – Corruption of minors
 - §6305 (a), (a.1) – Sale of tobacco products
 - §6307 – Misrepresentation of age to secure liquor or malt or brewed beverages
 - §6308 – Purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages
 - §6310.1 – Selling or furnishing liquor or malt or brewed beverages to minors
 - §6310.3 – Carrying a false identification card
 - §6312 – Sexual abuse of children
 - §6318 – Unlawful contact with minor
 - §6320 – Sexual exploitation of children
 - §6321 – Transmission of sexually explicit images by minor
- [Chapter 65 – Nuisances](#)
 - §6501 – Scattering Rubbish
- [Chapter 75 – Other Offenses](#)
 - §7507.1 – Invasion of Privacy
 - §7512 – Criminal use of communication facility
- [Chapter 76 – Computer Crimes](#)
 - §7601 – Definitions
 - §7602 – Jurisdiction
- [Chapter 77 – Vehicle chop shop and illegally obtained and altered property](#)
 - §7703 – Alteration or destruction of vehicle identification number

TITLE 23 – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

- [Chapter 61 – Protection from Abuse](#)
 - [§6101 – Short title of chapter](#)
 - [§6105 – Responsibilities of law enforcement agencies](#)
 - [§6107 – Hearings](#)
 - [§6108 – Relief](#)

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- [§6108.1 – Return of relinquished firearms, other weapons and ammunition and additional relief](#)
- [§6108.2 – Relinquishment for consignment sale, lawful transfer or safekeeping](#)
- [§6108.3 – Relinquishment to third party for safekeeping](#)
- [§6109 – Service of orders](#)
- [§6110\(b\) – Emergency relief by minor judiciary](#)
- [§6113 – Arrest for violation of order](#)
- [§6121 – Warrantless searches](#)
- [Chapter 63 – Child Protective Services](#)
 - [§6311 – Persons required to report suspected child abuse](#)

TITLE 35 – THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC ACT

- [§780-104 – Schedules of controlled substances](#)
- [§780-113 – Prohibited acts; Penalties](#)

TITLE 42 – JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE

- [Chapter 44 – Court Interpreters](#)
 - [§4434 – Interrogation](#)
- [Chapter 55 – Limitation of time](#)
 - [§5551 – No limitations applicable](#)
 - [§5552 – Other offenses](#)
 - [§5553 – Summary offenses involving vehicles](#)
- [Chapter 63 – Juvenile Matters](#)
 - [§6301 – Short title and purposes of chapter](#)
 - [§6302 – Definitions](#)
 - [§6308 – Law enforcement records](#)
 - [§6324 – Taking into custody](#)
 - [§6325 – Detention of child](#)
 - [§6326 – Release or delivery to court](#)

TITLE 50 – MENTAL HEALTH

- [Article I – General Provisions](#)
 - [§114 – Immunity from Civil and Criminal Liability](#)

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- [Article II – Voluntary Examination and Treatment](#)
 - [§201 – Persons Who May Authorize Voluntary Treatment](#)
 - [§206 – Withdrawal from Voluntary Inpatient Treatment](#)
- [Article III – Involuntary Examination and Treatment](#)
 - [§301 – Persons Who May be Subject to Involuntary Emergency Examination and Treatment](#)
 - [§302 – Involuntary Emergency Examination and Treatment Authorized by a Physician – Not to Exceed One Hundred Twenty Hours](#)
 - [§303 – Extended Involuntary Treatment Not to Exceed Ninety Days](#)

TITLE 75 – VEHICLE CODE

- [Chapter 1 – General Provisions](#)
 - §102 – Definitions
- [Chapter 11 – Certificate of Title and Security Interests](#)
 - §1101 – Certificate of title required
 - §1102 – Vehicles not requiring certificate of title
 - §1103.1 – Application for certificate of title
 - §1106 – Content and effect of certificate of title
 - §1110 – Duplicate certificate of title to replace original
 - §1111 – Transfer of ownership of vehicle
 - §1115 – Correction of certificate of title
- [Chapter 13 – Registration of Vehicles](#)
 - §1301 – Registration and certificate of title required
 - §1302 – Vehicles exempt from registration
 - §1303 – Vehicles of nonresidents exempt from registration
 - §1309 – Renewal of registration
 - §1311 – Registration card to be signed and exhibited on demand
 - §1312 – Notice of change of name or address
 - §1319 – Duties of motor carrier vehicle owners
 - §1332 – Display of registration plate
 - §1333 – Lost, stolen, damaged or illegible registration plate
 - §1336 – Use of dealer registration plate

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §1338 – Person with disability plate and placard
- §1340 – Antique, classic and collectible plates
- §1371 – Operation following suspension of registration
- §1372 – Unauthorized transfer or use of registration
- §1376 – Surrender of registration plates and cards upon suspension or revocation
- [Chapter 15 – Licensing of Drivers](#)
 - §1501 – Drivers required to be licensed
 - §1502 – Persons exempt from licensing
 - §1503 – Persons ineligible for licensing; license issuance to minors; junior driver's license
 - §1504 – Classes of licenses
 - §1505 – Learners' permits
 - §1510 – Issuance and content of driver's license
 - §1511 – Carrying and exhibiting driver's license on demand
 - §1514 – Expiration and renewal of driver's licenses
 - Subsection A and D
 - §1515 – Notice of change of name or address
 - §1540 – Surrender of license
 - §1543 – Driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked
 - §1543.1 – Driving while operating privilege is suspended for certain other offenses
 - §1547 – Chemical testing to determine amount of alcohol or controlled substance
 - §1553 – Occupational limited license
 - Subsection F
 - §1573 – Displaying a foreign license during suspension or revocation
 - §1574 – Permitting unauthorized person to drive
 - §1575 – Permitting violation of title
- [Chapter 16 – Commercial Vehicles](#)
 - §1603 – Definitions
 - §1606 – Requirement for commercial driver's license
 - §1612 – Commercial and school vehicle drivers prohibited from operating with any alcohol in system
 - §1613 – Implied consent requirements for commercial motor drivers

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §1621 – Texting while driving
- §1622 – Handheld mobile telephone
- [Chapter 17 – Financial responsibility](#)
 - §1786 – Required financial responsibility
 - Subsection (f) and (g)
- [Chapter 31 – Obedience to and effect of traffic laws](#)
 - §3102 – Obedience to authorized persons directing traffic
 - §3103 – Persons riding animals or driving animal-drawn vehicles
 - §3105 – Persons working on highways
 - §3107 – Drivers in funeral processions
 - §3111 – Obedience to traffic-control devices
 - §3112 – Traffic-control signals
 - §3113 – Pedestrian-control signals
 - §3114 – Flashing signals
- [Chapter 33 – Rules of the road in general](#)
 - §3301 – Driving on right side of roadway
 - §3302 – Meeting vehicle proceeding in opposite direction
 - §3303 – Overtaking vehicle on the left
 - §3304 – Overtaking vehicle on the right
 - §3305 – Limitations on overtaking on the left
 - §3306 – Limitations on driving on left side of roadway
 - §3307 – No-passing zones
 - §3308 – One-way roadways and rotary traffic islands
 - §3309 – Driving on roadways laned for traffic
 - §3310 – Following too closely
 - §3311 – Driving on divided highways
 - §3312 – Limited access highway entrances and exits
 - §3313 – Restrictions on use of limited access highways
 - §3314 – Prohibiting use of hearing impairment devices
 - §3316 – Prohibiting text-based communications
 - §3316.1 – Prohibiting use of interactive mobile device

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §3321 – Vehicle approaching or entering intersection
- §3322 – Vehicle turning left
- §3323 – Stops signs and yield signs
- §3324 – Vehicle entering or crossing roadway
- §3325 – Duty of driver on approach of emergency vehicle
- §3326 – Duty of driver in construction and maintenance areas or on highway safety corridors
- §3327 – Duty of driver in emergency response areas and in relation to disabled vehicles
- §3331 – Required position and method of turning
- §3332 – Limitations on turning around
- §3333 – Moving stopped or parked vehicle
- §3334 – Turning movements and required signals
- §3335 – Signals by hand and arm or signals by lamp
- §3336 – Method of giving hand and arm signals
- §3341 – Obedience to signal indicating approach of train
- §3342 – Vehicles required to stop at railroad crossings
- §3344 – Emerging from alley, driveway or building
- §3345 – Meeting or overtaking school bus
- §3351 – Stopping, standing and parking outside business and residence districts
- §3352 – Removal of vehicle by or at direction of police
- §3353 – Prohibitions in specified places
- §3354 – Additional parking regulations
- §3361 – Driving vehicle at safe speeds
- §3362 – Maximum speed limits
- §3363 – Alteration of maximum limits
- §3364 – Minimum speed regulation
- §3365 – Special speed limitations
- §3367 – Racing on highways and trafficways
- §3368 – Speed timing devices
- [Chapter 35 – Special vehicle and pedestrians](#)
 - §3501 – Applicability of traffic laws to pedalcycles

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §3502 – Penalty for violation of subchapter
- §3503 – Responsibility of parent or guardian
- §3504 – Riding on pedalcycles
- §3505 – Riding on roadways and pedalcycle paths
- §3506 – Articles carried by operator
- §3507 – Lamps and other equipment on pedalcycles
- §3511 – Pedalcycles prohibited on freeways
- §3522 – Riding on motorcycles
- §3523 – Operating motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic
- §3524 – Footrests and handhold
- §3525 – Protective equipment for motorcycle riders
- §3526 – Lighted lamp requirements for motorcycles
- §3527 – Certain passengers prohibited in autocycles
- §3542 – Right-of-way of pedestrians in crosswalks
- §3545 – Pedestrians soliciting rides or business
- §3548 – Pedestrians to yield to emergency vehicles
- §3550 – Pedestrians under influence of alcohol or controlled substance
- §3552 – Penalty for violation of subchapter
- [Chapter 37 – Miscellaneous provisions](#)
 - §3701 – Unattended motor vehicle
 - §3701.1 – Leaving an unattended child in a motor vehicle
 - §3702 – Limitations on backing
 - §3703 – Driving upon sidewalk
 - §3704 – Obstruction to driving view or mechanism
 - §3705 – Opening and closing vehicle doors
 - §3706 – Riding in house trailers, mobile homes or boats on trailers
 - §3707 – Driving or stopping close to fire apparatus
 - §3708 – Unauthorized driving over fire hose
 - §3709 – Depositing waste and other material on highway, property or waters
 - §3710 – Stopping at intersection or crossing to prevent obstruction
 - §3711 – Unauthorized persons and devices hanging on vehicles

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §3712 – Abandonment of vehicles
- §3713 – Railroad trains not to block crossings
- §3714 – Careless driving
- §3716 – Accidents involving overturned vehicles
- §3717 – Trespass by motor vehicle
- §3718 – Minor prohibited from operating with any alcohol in system
- §3719 – Passengers in open trucks
- §3721 – Snow and ice
- §3722 – Off=road vehicles in urban municipalities
- §3723 – Theft of catalytic converter
- §3724 – Use of registration plate flipping device
- §3732 – Homicide by vehicle
- §3732.1 – Aggravated assault by vehicle
- §3733 – Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer
- §3734 – Driving without lights to avoid identification or arrest
- §3735 – Homicide by vehicle while driving under influence
- §3735.1 – Aggravated assault by vehicle while driving under the influence
- §3736 – Reckless driving
- §3742 – Accidents involving death or personal injury
- §3742.1 – Accidents involving death or personal injury while not properly licensed
- §3743 – Accidents involving damage to attended vehicle or property
- §3743.1 – Spilled cargo
- §3744 – Duty to give information and render aid
- §3745 – Accidents involving damage to unattended vehicle or property
- §3746 – Immediate notice of accident to police department
- §3748 – False reports
- [Chapter 38 – Driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs](#)
 - §3801 – Definitions
 - §3802 – Driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance
 - §3808 – Illegally operating a motor vehicle not equipped with ignition interlock
 - §3809 – Restriction on alcoholic beverages

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- [Chapter 41 – Equipment Standards](#)
 - §4107 – Unlawful activities
- [Chapter 43 – Lighting Equipment](#)
 - §4302 – Periods for requiring lighted lamps
 - §4303 – General lighting requirements
 - §4304 – Obstructed lights not required
 - §4305 – Vehicular hazard signal lamps
 - §4306 – Use of multiple-beam road lighting equipment
 - §4307 – Use and display of illuminated signs
 - §4308 – Lighted head lamps on school buses
 - §4309 – Lighted head lamps in work zones
- [Chapter 45 – Other required equipment](#)
 - §4523 – Exhaust systems, mufflers and noise control
 - §4524 – Windshield obstructions and wipers
 - §4525 – Tire equipment and traction surfaces
 - §4526 – Safety glass
 - §4527 – Image display device
 - §4528 – Fire extinguishers
 - §4529 – Slow moving vehicle emblem
 - §4530 – Portable emergency warning device
 - §4533 – Rear wheel shields
 - §4534 – Rearview mirrors
 - §4535 – Audible warning devices
 - §4571 – Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles
 - §4581 – Restraint systems
- [Chapter 47 – Inspection of vehicles](#)
 - §4703 – Operation of vehicle without official certificate of inspection
 - Sections (a), (c), (d)
- [Chapter 49 – Size, weight, and load](#)
 - §4903 – Securing loads in vehicles
 - §4904 – Limits on number of towed vehicles

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §4921 – Width of vehicles
- §4922 – Height of vehicles
- §4923 – Length of vehicles
- §4924 – Limitations on length of projecting loads
- §4925 – Width of projecting loads on passenger vehicles
- §4942 – Registered gross weight
- [Chapter 63 – Enforcement](#)
 - §6308 – Investigation by police officers
 - §6309.2 – Immobilization, towing and storage of vehicle for driving without operating privileges or registration
- [Chapter 65 – Penalties and disposition of fines](#)
 - §6501 – Definition of conviction
 - §6502 – Summary offenses
 - §6503 – Subsequent conviction of certain offenses
 - §6503.1 – Habitual offenders
- [Chapter 71 – Vehicle theft and related provisions](#)
 - §7121 – False application for certificate of title or registration
 - §7122 – Altered, forged or counterfeit documents and plates
 - §7123 – Sale or purchase of certificate or other document
 - §7124 – Fraudulent use or removal of registration plate
- [Chapter 73 – Abandoned vehicles and cargos](#)
 - §7310 – Removal of abandoned or presumed abandoned vehicles from roadway
- [Chapter 77 – Snowmobiles and All-Terrain Vehicles](#)
 - §7711.1 – Registration of snowmobile or ATV
 - §7721 – Operation on streets and highways
 - §7722 – Designation of snowmobile and ATV roads
 - §7723 – Special snowmobile and ATV events
 - §7724 – Operation on private or State property
 - §7725 – Operation by persons under age sixteen
 - §7726 – Operation in safe manner
 - §7727 – Additional limitation on operation

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- §7728 – Accidents and accident reports
- §7729 – Liability of owner for negligence
- §7730 – Liability insurance
- [Chapter 77A – Operation of Golf Carts](#)
 - §77A01 – Operation on highways

TITLE 225 – RULES OF EVIDENCE

- [Rule 8: Hearsay](#)
 - [Rule 801: Definitions That Apply to this Article](#)
 - [Rule 802: The Rule Against Hearsay](#)
 - Rule 803: Exceptions to the Rule Against Hearsay – Regardless of Whether the Declarant is Available as a Witness (*too many exceptions to list here, to view Rule 803, click on the hyperlink for Rule 8: Hearsay above*)
 - [Rule 804: Exceptions to the Rule Against Hearsay – When the Declarant is Unavailable as a Witness](#)
 - [Rule 804\(b\): The Exceptions](#)
 - [Rule 805: Hearsay within Hearsay](#)
 - [Rule 806: Attacking and Supporting the Declarant's Credibility](#)

TITLE 234 – RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

- [Chapter 1 – Scope of Rules, Construction and Definitions, Local Rules](#)
 - [Rule 117 – Coverage: Issuing warrants, preliminary arraignments and summary trials; and setting and accepting bail](#)
 - [Rule 130 – Venue; Transfer of proceedings](#)
- [Chapter 2 – Investigations](#)
 - [Rule 200 – Who may issue](#)
 - [Rule 201 – Purpose of warrant](#)
 - [Rule 202 – Approval of search warrant applications by attorney for the Commonwealth – local option](#)
 - [Rule 203 – Requirements for issuance](#)
 - [Rule 204 – Person to serve warrant](#)

MPOETC Certification Study Guide

- [Rule 205 – Contents of search warrant](#)
- [Rule 206 – Contents of application for search warrant](#)
- [Rule 207 – Manner of entry into premises](#)
- [Rule 208 – Copy of warrant; Receipt for seized property](#)
- [Rule 209 – Return with inventory](#)
- [Chapter 4 – Procedures in Summary Cases](#)
 - [Rule 400 – Means of instituting proceedings in summary cases](#)
 - [Rule 401 – Means of instituting proceedings in summary cases charging parking violations](#)
 - [Rule 403 – Contents of citation](#)
 - [Rule 405 – Issuance of citation](#)
 - [Rule 406 – Procedure following issuance of citation](#)
 - [Rule 407 – Pleas in response to citation](#)
 - [Rule 408 – Not guilty pleas – notice of trial](#)
 - [Rule 409 – Guilty pleas](#)
 - [Rule 440 – Arrest without warrant](#)
 - [Rule 441 – Procedure following arrest without warrant](#)
- [Chapter 5 – Pretrial Procedures in Court Cases](#)
 - [Rule 502 – Instituting Proceedings in Court Cases](#)
 - [Rule 503 – Complaint Procedures Generally](#)
 - [Rule 504 – Contents of Complaint](#)
 - [Rule 509 – Use of Summons or Warrant of Arrest in Court Cases](#)
 - [Rule 510 – Contents of Summons; Notice of Preliminary Hearing](#)
 - [Rule 515 – Execution of Arrest Warrant](#)
 - [Rule 516 – Procedure in Court Cases When Warrant of Arrest is Executed Within Judicial District of Issuance](#)
 - [Rule 517 – Procedure in Court Cases When Warrant of Arrest is Executed Outside Judicial District of Issuance](#)
 - [Rule 519 – Procedure in Court Cases Initiated by Arrest Without Warrant](#)
 - [Rule 540 – Preliminary Arraignment](#)
 - [Rule 541 – Waiver of Preliminary Hearing](#)

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- [Rule 542 – Preliminary Hearing; Continuances](#)
- [Rule 543 – Disposition of Case at Preliminary Hearing](#)
- [Rule 544 – Reinstating Charges Following Withdrawal or Dismissal](#)

TITLE 237 – RULES OF JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURE

- [Rule 2 – Commencement of proceedings, arrest procedures, written allegation, and pre-adjudicatory detention](#)
 - [Rule 200 – Commencing proceedings](#)
 - [Rule 210 – Arrest warrants](#)
 - [Rule 211 – Requirements for issuance](#)
 - [Rule 220 – Procedure in cases commenced by arrest without warrant](#)
 - [Rule 221 – Temporary detention in police lock-up](#)
 - [Rule 231 – Written allegation](#)
 - [Rule 232 – Contents of written allegation](#)

US CONSTITUTION – BILL OF RIGHTS

- [First Amendment](#)
- [Second Amendment](#)
- [Third Amendment](#)
- [Fourth Amendment](#)
- [Fifth Amendment](#)
- [Sixth Amendment](#)
- [Seventh Amendment](#)
- [Eighth Amendment](#)
- [Ninth Amendment](#)
- [Tenth Amendment](#)

PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION

- [Article I, Section 8: Security from searches and seizures](#)

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CASE LAWS

- [Graham v. Connor](#)
- [J.D.B. v. North Carolina](#)
- [Mapp v. Ohio](#)
- [Miranda v. Arizona](#)
- [South Dakota v. Opperman](#)
- [Tennessee v. Garner](#)
- [Terry v. Ohio](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Adams](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Alexander](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Bradley](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Greenberg](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Grooms](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Hughes](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Livingstone](#)
- [Commonwealth v. Waltson](#)

CRASH REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR POLICE

- [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Crash Manual](#)
 - Definition and Terms
 - Crash Scenarios
 - Reportable/Non-Reportable Crash Examples.

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM / INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

- [IS-100.C: Introduction to the incident command system, ICS 100](#)
 - [Organizational Structure](#)
 - [Unified Command](#)

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- [Hazardous materials markings, labeling and placarding guide](#)

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LEGAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- [ACT 79 of 2017](#)
- [Blood Test Warnings](#)
- [Search and seizure](#) ²
 - [Curtilage- Definition](#)
 - [Exclusionary Rule](#)
- [Levels of Encounters](#)
 - Mere Encounter
 - Investigative Detention
 - Arrest or Custodial Detention
- [Pennsylvania Court Structure](#)
- [Prohibiting Ticket Quotas](#)

PENNSYLVANIA AMBER ALERT

- **What are the activation criteria for AMBER Alert?**
 - The abducted person must be a child less than 18 years old;
 - Law enforcement has reason to believe the abducted child is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury;
 - Additional factors include, but are not limited to, the availability of descriptive information that could assist in the child's recovery, time elapsed since the child's last sighting, and reliability of witness(es).
 - The plan is limited to abductions and excludes children who run away from home or are told to leave home by a household adult

PENNSYLVANIA MEPA ADVISORY

- The Missing Endangered Person Advisory (MEPA) system is designed to assist in the recovery of missing persons who are at special risk of harm or injury. Alerts are sent to local media for distribution to the public, and to local law enforcement, to assist in the recovery.

² Additional information for search and seizure topics can be found using the following link: [Search and seizure | EBSCO Research Starters](#)

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- MEPA criteria include the following considerations:
 - The incident circumstances do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, and
 - The person(s) is missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances, or
 - The person's age or health, a mental or physical disability, or current weather or environmental conditions place the missing person in peril of serious bodily injury or death, and
 - Public notification could assist in a safe recovery.
- Other relevant factors:
 - Quality/quantity of descriptive information
 - Time elapsed since last seen
 - Reliability of witnesses