

# Crime Stoppers ABC's (101)

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## Why this course?



FOUNDATION FOR  
CONFERENCE



PROVIDES "TALKING  
POINTS" TO ALL CS  
REPRESENTATIVES  
(IE  
COORDINATORS,  
BOARD MEMBERS,  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTORS ETC.)



INTRODUCTORY  
"BIG PICTURE"  
VIEW OF  
OPERATING A  
LEGITIMATE CS  
PROGRAM



COORDINATOR,  
& BOARD  
PERSPECTIVE

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## Objectives

Understand  
basic History of  
Crime Stoppers

ability to explain  
the "Crime  
Stoppers  
Concept"

understand the  
Role of Board of  
Directors

understand the  
Role of the  
Coordinator

understand the  
Role of the  
Media

why "Tip  
Processing"  
(sanitizing) is so  
important

how to Protect  
Crime Stoppers

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## History

- ▶ September 8, 1976
- ▶ Albuquerque, New Mexico
- ▶ Robbery/homicide – Michael Carmen (July 1976)
- ▶ Det. Greg Macaleese
- ▶ Crime of the week
- ▶ 3 arrested within 72 hours – case was 4 months old
- ▶ Caller ID'ed the car – “didn't want to get involved”

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## Essential Elements of Crime Stoppers Concept

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## ▶ WHY CRIME STOPPERS ?

- ▶ FEAR OF REPRISAL
- ▶ AN ATTITUDE OF APATHY
- ▶ RELUCTANCE TO GET INVOLVED
  - “SNITCHES GET STITCHES”

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## Know The Competition

Someone Knows Something. We are not alone.....

**Local law enforcement** - Social Media;"anonymous" report by leaving a message or e-mail us. Usually, no offer of rewards

**National Crime Tips** - Associated with Police/Fire Magazine. Reward based on arrest & conviction

**Schools** - Anonymous using "Forms" for tips that often ask for your name, phone number, e-mail. May have phone lines into School offices. Sprgeo

**Tip 411/Nixle** - Tips go directly to subscriber, usually law enforcement agency with no review of tip info.

**WeTip** - Not-for-profit, takes crime tips but moving toward services for companies.

**Sandy Hook Promise** - Creating an entire program for schools to include tipping programs. (CS Tips by Response Angel)

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## Record Keeping

### ► Disclaimer

► Dear anonymous information contained in this tip does **NOT** constitute reasonable suspicion or probable cause or arrest and is the exclusive property of the (Program Name) Crime Stoppers Tips Hotline. This information is not to be included in any investigative file.

► This form is the exclusive property of Crime Stoppers of \_\_\_\_\_. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this document is **STRICTLY** prohibited. DO NOT include this form in any investigative file.

### ► Corporate vs. Public Record (Check with Your State)

► Corporate: **Corporate records** are such **records** that are required by a **corporation** to show that it is functioning according to the rules of the Internal Revenue Service. **Corporate records** usually have a **corporate record** book which includes all the required documents. **Corporate records** can also be kept online or in a file cabinet. (US Legal, Inc.)

► Public: **Public records** are documents or pieces of information that are not considered confidential and generally pertain to the conduct of government. Reference your specific state "Sunshine Law" procedure. (Wikipedia)

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## Record Keeping (Cont.)

### ► Ownership:

- Crime Stoppers
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutor
- Defense Attorney
- All the Above

### ► Corporate vs. Public:

- State to State Variance
- Release and Retention defined by State and/or Federal statute
- Could be both – who took the tip (me vs. staff), where is the tip stored, was tip included in case file, do state specific protections exist?

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## Inculpatory vs. Exculpatory

Inculpatory

- **Inculpatory** means causing blame to be imputed to; to incriminate. For example, **inculpatory** statement is a statement which attribute liability on the person making such statement. It incriminates or places guilt or responsibility on someone. (US Legal, Inc.) **98%**

Exculpatory

- Exculpatory evidence is evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal trial that exonerates or tends to exonerate the defendant of guilt. It is the opposite of inculpatory evidence, which tends to present guilt. (Wikipedia) **2%**

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## How Crime Stoppers Works? It's what makes us different

### Anonymous vs Confidential Tips

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## Anonymous vs. Confidential

**Anonymous Tips:** The anonymous informant, however, lacks the advantages of both the professional and the lay informant. By definition, anonymous informants lack a "track record," and they also cannot be presumed to be credible, since police have no means of gauging their possible motives for making false accusations or of holding them accountable for false tips. On their face, such informants would thus appear to have almost no credibility. Yet the Supreme Court has allowed for the use of anonymous informants' tips in substantiating both probable-cause and reasonable-suspicion determinations, in *Illinois v. Gates* and *Alabama v. White*, respectively. The Supreme Court held that the combination of the anonymous informant's tip and police corroboration of some of the information were sufficient to make out probable cause.

**Confidential Informant:** A confidential informant is a person who provides information about criminal activity to law enforcement officers. The identities of these individuals are privileged in order to protect these individuals against retribution from those involved in crime. Statements made by a confidential informant are testimonial in nature, and therefore, may not be offered by the government to establish the guilt of an accused absent an opportunity for the accused to cross-examine the informant. However, evidence that is provided merely by way of background or is offered only to explain how certain events came to pass or why the officers took the actions they did, is not offered for the truth of the matter asserted. [United States v. Warman, 578 F.3d 320 (6th Cir. Ohio 2009)]

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## Protect Tipsters

- ▶ Protect the Tipster from Themselves
  - ▶ Reveal too much
  - ▶ Try to "sell" you on the information
  - ▶ Gender Neutral
  - ▶ Be general when discussing "how" the info. is known
  - ▶ Use "they" as opposed to "he" or "she"
  - ▶ Edit info. but be careful not to "add" your own commentary
  - ▶ Don't accept e-mail or Social Media tips!

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| Tip ID     | Offense #            | Source #    | Status #         | Created #           | Delivered #         |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 452-342175 | Information Only     | Mobile Web  | Open             | 2023/10/10 07:21 AM | 2023/10/10 07:27 AM |
| 452-342174 | Arrest/Investigation | Mobile Web  | Open             | 2023/10/10 10:27 PM | 2023/10/10 10:27 PM |
| 452-342173 | Info Only            | Call Center | Open             | 2023/10/10 10:44 AM | 2023/10/10 11:45 AM |
| 452-342172 | Other                | Mobile Web  | Information Only | 2023/10/10 08:11 PM | 2023/10/10 08:11 PM |
| 452-342171 | Drugs                | Call Center | Open             | 2023/10/10 07:47 PM | 2023/10/10 08:50 PM |
| 452-342170 | Drugs                | Call Center | Open             | 2023/10/10 07:47 PM | 2023/10/10 08:50 PM |

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## SANITIZATION PRIMER

"John Doe is my ex-husband. I have been telling him stay at my house at 123 Main Street since he was released from jail in 2011. I left the property two years ago to live with my new husband. He let Jane Doe move in two months ago. When I went to collect the rest of my belongings from the house at 123 Main Street, Ms. Doe told me that she and John are doing meth on a daily basis and showed me the meth she had been holding back from John. John was arrested in 2008 for growing marijuana in the shed in the back of the house. I have good reason to believe he is now cooking meth in that shed as I can think of no other way that they could afford to smoke meth everyday. In addition, Ms. Doe was recently arrested with meth and oxycodone. Finally, when I asked John if I could see the house and shed he said the police had already been there following Ms. Doe's arrest. I called to confirm that this morning and was told there have been no deputies called to that address recently. I understand that cooking meth can be very dangerous as explosions can happen and am concerned for my property. I am currently in the process of having them evicted but that may take a few weeks. Thank you for your help."

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## SANITIZATION (REDACTED)

- ▶ "John Doe is my ex-husband. I have been letting him stay at my house, is living at 123 Main Street since he was released from jail in 2011. He left the property two years ago to live with my new husband. He let Jane Doe move in two months ago. When I went to collect the rest of my belongings from the house at 123 Main Street, Ms. Doe told me that she and John are doing meth on a daily basis and showed me I have seen the meth she had been holding back from John. John was arrested in 2008 for growing marijuana in the shed in the back of the house. I have good reason to believe he is now cooking meth in that shed as I can think of no other way that they could afford to smoke meth everyday. In addition, Ms. Doe was recently arrested with meth and oxycodone. I finally, when I asked John if I could see the house and shed he said the police had already been there following Ms. Doe's arrest. I called to confirm that this morning and was told there have been no deputies called to that address recently. I understand that cooking meth can be very dangerous as explosions can happen and am concerned for my property. am currently in the process of having them evicted but that may take a few weeks. Thank you for your help.

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## SANITIZATION (CONT.) FINAL

- ▶ "John Doe is living at 123 Main Street since he was released from jail in 2011. John and his wife are doing meth on a daily basis and people have seen the meth. John was arrested in 2008 for growing marijuana in the shed in the back of the house. There is good reason to believe he is now cooking meth in that shed as I can think of no other way that they could afford to smoke meth everyday. In addition, Ms. Doe was recently arrested with meth and oxycodone. Thank you for your help.

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## Crime Stoppers Fundamental Concepts How Crime Stoppers works, what makes us different (CONT.)

- Citizen Board
- Coordinator
- Rewards
- Media
- Law Enforcement
- Anonymity

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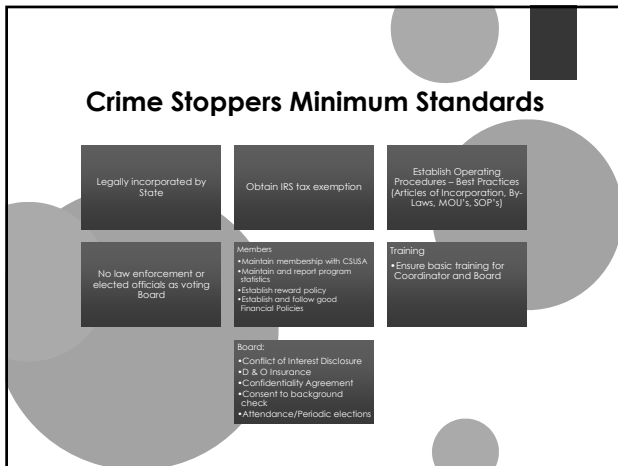
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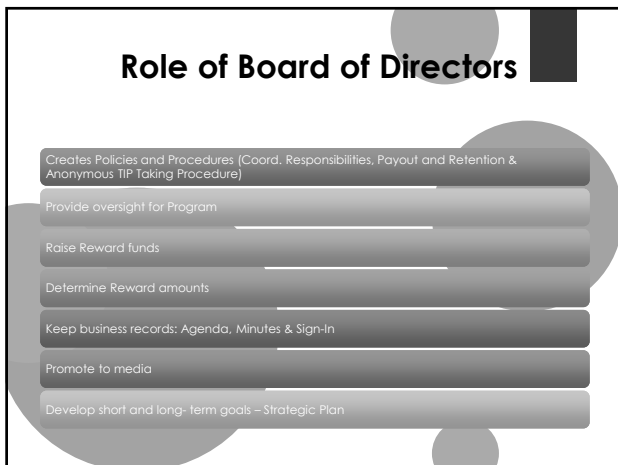
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## Sample Board Meeting Agenda

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## ►Role of Coordinator

**Multi-faceted job with multiple hats.**

**Responsible for day-to-day operation of program.**

**Handle tips, follow up, screen and disseminate information.**

**Liaison between Law Enforcement Agencies and Board of Directors.**

**Coordinates between Media, Police and Board of Directors.**

**Maintains record keeping system for the program.**

**Prepares reports for Law Enforcement Agencies, Board of Directors and Media.**

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## Role of Law Enforcement

- Provide Coordinator & Department contact
- Screen Crime Stoppers Tips
- Coordinate with Investigators
- Maintain files & Case Status
- Provide dispositions to tips
- Select cases for "Crime or Fugitive of the Week"
- Promote program within Department
- Member Agencies provide representative to Board of Directors

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## Role of Media

- Social Media
  - FaceBook
  - Twitter
- Newspapers
- Television
- Radio
- Cable TV
- Wanted Posters
- Web Site



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## Tip Taking

- ▶ Phone
  - Answering Service vs. Local Answering
- ▶ Web Tips
- ▶ App Tips
- ▶ QR Code
- ▶ Text (KCCS to 738477)



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## Rewards

- ▶ Determining Reward Amounts
  - ▶ Special Rewards
  - ▶ Enhanced Rewards
- ▶ Paying Rewards



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## Partnerships

- ▶ Student Based/Scholastic
- ▶ Partnerships -
  - ▶ Domestic Violence
  - ▶ Animal Abuse
  - ▶ Elder Abuse
  - ▶ Auto Theft
  - ▶ Construction Site Theft
  - ▶ Enhanced Homicide Reward

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- COMPLY WITH BY-LAWS
- DO NOT PUT YOUR IRS TAX EXEMPTION AT RISK
- MAINTAIN GOOD FINANCIAL STANDING AND HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR REWARDS
- ACT CAREFULLY WHEN DEALING WITH LARGE OR SUPPLEMENTAL REWARDS
- PROTECT YOUR TIPSTERS (SANITIZE) - JOB # 1
- NO CRIMES OR SCANDALS
- HANDLE TIPS PROPERLY
- MAINTAIN ACCURATE PROGRAM STATISTICS
- PROVIDE WRITTEN BOARD REPORTS
- CONDUCT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS
- COORDINATE PAYMENT OF REWARDS
- WORK WITH ALL MEDIA
- KNOW YOUR STUFF - HAVE YOUR ELEVATOR PRESENTATION READY AT ALL TIMES

## Protecting Crime Stoppers

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## Don't Re-invent The Wheel

- ▶ Contact Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers
  - ▶ [www.WICrimeStoppers.org](http://www.WICrimeStoppers.org)
- ▶ K. Scott Abrams, CPA, CGMA
  - ▶ Past Chair, Financial Expert CS USA
  - ▶ [sabrams@crimestoppersusa.com](mailto:sabrams@crimestoppersusa.com)
  - ▶ (920) 210-3728
- ▶ Det. Tim Bowman
  - ▶ Coordinator - Chippewa County Crime Stoppers
  - ▶ [tbowman@lakehallie.us](mailto:tbowman@lakehallie.us)
  - ▶ (715) 894-0922

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