

The New Animal Cruelty Laws
What Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Officers Now Need to
Know
Somerset County Police academy
February 16, 2018
9AM to 5 PM

The new legislation relating to the enforcement of animal cruelty laws has brought about significant changes to the responsibilities of the County Prosecutors as well as Municipal Police and Prosecutors. New responsibilities and the creation of new Municipal and County Humane Law Enforcement Officer positions will have an immediate impact on how animal cruelty is enforced.

This interactive workshop will update attendees on the impact of the new law. We will discuss the important role of the Assistant Prosecutor who will be designated as the "County Animal Cruelty Prosecutor" and the importance of effective investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty case. We will also discuss how investigating and trying an animal cruelty case has different considerations from the typical criminal case and how animal cruelty can be the warning sign of other forms of violence in the home and on the street.

In this workshop, attendees will learn how search and seizure concepts, such as plain view, emergency aid, and search warrants, apply in animal cruelty cases; when and how animals can be seized; what to do with seized animals, the living evidence, after seizure; determining what is in the best interests of the animal and the important role of veterinarians in proving animal cruelty. Also covered in this workshop: pre-trial and trial considerations in animal cruelty cases, such as charging factors, civil penalties, burden of proof issues, bail/release conditions, plea considerations, effective trial factors and more.

Attendees will learn:

- New requirements of the law for Prosecutors and Police
- Roles of County and Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officers and Animal Control Officers
- Update on training and certification requirements
- What constitutes animal cruelty in New Jersey
- When an animal can and should be seized and what happens afterwards
- The use of civil penalties
- What prosecutors should consider and not consider in plea negotiations
- What prosecutors should consider in charging defendants with animal cruelty
- What successful prosecution in animal cruelty cases can mean in reducing violence in the home and street

- Why animal cruelty is the secret weapon of the domestic violence abuser
- How animal cruelty cases should be investigated

The course will be held at the Somerset County Police Academy located at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy 402 Roycefield Rd. behind the Somerset County South County Garage in Hillsborough, NJ. 08844 It will run from 9:00AM until 5:00PM and is offered on Friday, February 16, 2018. The cost of the course is \$89.00 per person and is designed for all law enforcement officers including police, sheriff's officers, cruelty investigators, municipal prosecutors and county prosecutors and assistant prosecutors.

Registration forms can be found on line at:

<http://www.cditraining.org/machform/view.php?id=39153>

For further information regarding certification, course content, or questions please contact:

Career Development Institute
1.800.244.6921
www.cditraining.org.

INSTRUCTORS

Deputy Attorney General William J Zaorski Ret.

Mr. Zaorski began his more than 30 years of governmental service as an assistant prosecutor with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. When he joined the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), he taught criminal justice subjects for the Basic Course for Investigators conducted by DCJ as well as statewide workshops on search and seizure, domestic violence, the penal code and other subjects.

While with the Division of Criminal Justice, Mr. Zaorski coordinated the development of State guidelines for prosecutors and law enforcement officers regarding domestic violence procedures. He was one of the developers and presenters of the well-received three-day advanced domestic violence training workshop for prosecutors and police officers that was conducted for more than 10 years throughout the State. He is a PTC certified instructor. He serves as a resource member of the Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board. He is a member of the Animal Law Committee of the State Bar Association.

Mr. Zaorski has developed specialized workshops involving animal cruelty, such as *Advanced Search and Seizure Issues in Animal Cruelty Cases*, *Investigating An Animal Cruelty Complaint - 202*, *How to Prepare a Search Warrant Affidavit in an Animal Cruelty Case*, *How's the Family Pet: The Connection Between Animal Abuse And Violence In The Home*.

Michael S. Richmond Esq.

Mr. Richmond has been a New Jersey attorney for forty years and served as a Municipal Prosecutor for more than 25 years. His work included representing health officials in Municipal Court and advising on enforcement methods. He also served as an Assistant Township Attorney, attorney to the Fire Prevention Bureau, and Fire Districts.

He developed the program, Laws, Investigation and the Courtroom for Health Officer and Registered Environmental Health Specialists. He is the co-author of the book, *New Jersey Municipal Court Practice* published by Gann Law Books. He is also the Director of Continuing Education for Career Development Institute, Kendall Park, NJ.

Mr. Richmond conducts numerous seminars and workshops on legal issues and courtroom procedures for several different code enforcement specialties and is a PTC certified instructor. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas School Of Law. He is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association where he serves on the Municipal Court Section and the Animal Law Committee. He has served on the Compliance Subcommittee of the Committee of the Department of Health reviewing the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards

of Health in New Jersey and is the attorney for the New Jersey Local Boards of Healthy Association.

**Chief Investigator Michael Melchionne (retired)
Chief Animal Control Officer and Animal Cruelty Investigator**

Chief Investigator Melchionne started his career 1975. He recently retired after having been an animal control officer for 38 years. He attended the first Animal Control Officers class in 1983 as well as the first Animal Cruelty Investigators Course in 2001. In 1985 he founded and was the first President of the New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association and currently serves as their Executive Board Advisor and Administrator. Chief Melchionne attended and graduated from the Passaic County Police Academy as a Class II Special Police Officer. Investigator Melchionne attended John Hopkins University and holds a certificate for "Non-Profit Business and Management". He served as the Director of Animal Welfare Services for St Hubert's Giralda. Investigator Melchionne then designed, implemented, and managed the Gloucester County Animal Control Program and Animal Shelter Operations. He served as Chief Animal Control Officer/Animal Cruelty Investigator for Stafford Township managing a staff of three full time and three part time ACO's covering 5 local jurisdictions. Chief Melchionne has been appointed by two New Jersey Governors to serve on two State councils/task forces. Among his numerous NJ State certifications he is a certified Police Academy Instructor under the NJ Police Training Commission. Chief Melchionne volunteered and spent 10 days in Louisiana after Katrina rescuing animals left by their owners. Investigator Melchionne sits on several boards of directors including as an advisor to the NJ Animal Welfare Federation. Chief Investigator Melchionne is still considered the "GO TO" person for NJ Animal Control Officer and Animal Cruelty Investigator Issues.