

# BASIC COURSE UNIT GUIDE

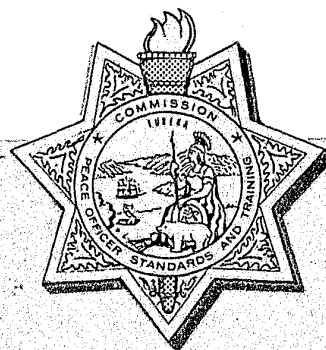
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## AUTO THEFT AND VEHICLE STORAGE

This unit guide covers the following learning goals contained in the POST Basic Course performance objective document:

- 10.24.0 Auto Theft
- 9.15.0 Vehicle Impound and Storage

Revised October 1990



THE COMMISSION  
ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

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**This unit of instruction is designed as a *guideline* for Performance Objective-based law enforcement basic training. This unit is part of the POST Basic Course Guidelines system developed by California law enforcement trainers and criminal justice educators for the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.**

**This Guide is designed to assist the instructor in developing an appropriate lesson plan to cover the performance objectives, which are required as minimum content of the Basic Course.**

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## **Learning Goals and Performance Objectives**

### 10.24.0 AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATION

**Learning Goal:** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

- 10.24.1 The student will identify the following tasks as those involved in the preliminary investigation of possible stolen vehicle.
- A. Inspect the license plates for signs of tampering
  - B. Inspect the interior for signs of tampering
  - C. If the vehicle is occupied, identify the driver and passengers
  - D. Compare driver license and vehicle registration for signature and address
  - E. Compare serial plate information and registration slip for signs of tampering
  - F. Check for ignition key and signs of hot wiring under dash
  - G. Compare engine and serial number with registration slip for signs of tampering
  - H. Search interior of vehicle and record the mileage
  - I. Complete vehicle theft report
- 10.24.2 Given a description of a vehicle, the student will identify the most likely location of the vehicle identification number in accordance with the following rules:
- A. Vehicles manufactured prior to 1960 may have identification numbers other than the VIN number stamped on the engine and recorded on the title
  - B. Vehicles manufactured between 1960 and 1967, inclusive, have the VIN plate attached to the fire wall, fender well, or driver's side door post
  - C. Most vehicles manufactured after 1967 have VIN plates attached to the dash so they are visible through the front windshield

### 9.15.0 VEHICLE IMPOUND AND STORAGE

**Learning Goal:** The student will understand how to impound and store vehicles.

## **Learning Goals and Performance Objectives**

9.15.1

Given a Vehicle Code and a description of a situation where an officer may have the authority to remove vehicles, the student will select an appropriate course of action from the following:

- A. Vehicle is abandoned (Vehicle Code Section 22669(a))
- B. Vehicle is a traffic hazard (Vehicle Code Section 22651(g))
- C. Incidental to an arrest (Vehicle Code Section 22651(h))
- D. Vehicle is store for safekeeping (Vehicle Code Section 22651 (g))
- E. Vehicle is stolen, recovered, and not released in field (Vehicle Code Section 22651(c) and 22653(a))
- F. Vehicle is held for investigation (Vehicle Code Section 22655.5)
- G. Vehicle is involved in hit and run (Vehicle Code Section 22655 or 22653(g)).
- H. Vehicle with VIN removed (Vehicle Code Section 10751(g))
- I. Vehicle held for operation by unlicensed driver (Vehicle Code Section 22651(p))

## **Material/Equipment**

Each training institution should develop its own list of equipment and materials for each unit. This list is dependent upon the instructional strategies methods/media considerations.

CHP 180 forms or related agency forms

**Learning Goal** 10.24.0 The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>I. AUTO THEFT (10.24.0)</p> <p>A. Introduction</p> <p>The prevention of vehicle theft and the recovery of stolen vehicles are important functions of the <u>beat</u> officer.</p> <p>To enforce the vehicle theft statutes effectively, it is essential that the peace officer know and understand their elements and their purposes. The California Vehicle Code and the California Penal Code provide the basis for the investigation of vehicle thefts in California. Although only coincidentally related to the subject of vehicle theft, there are numerous sections of both the Vehicle and Penal Codes which are pertinent to the problem of vehicle theft investigation.</p> <p>Following are several statutes with which every peace officer should be familiar. These sections are set forth in substance rather than verbatim, to make the distinguishing elements of each offense clear.</p> <p>1. Laws governing vehicle theft (Basic).</p> <p>a. California Vehicle Code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) 4462(b) CVC</li><li>(2) 4463 CVC</li><li>(3) 10501 CVC</li><li>(4) 10750 CVC</li><li>(5) 10751 CVC</li><li>(6) 10851CVC</li><li>(7) 10852 CVC</li><li>(8) 10855 CVC</li></ul>	

**Learning Goal 10.24.0:** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>b. California Penal Code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) 466 P.C.</li> <li>(2) 466.5 P.C.</li> <li>(3) 487.3 P.C.</li> <li>(4) 496 P.C.</li> <li>(5) 499(b) P.C. &amp; 499(b).1 P.C.</li> <li>(6) 503 P.C.</li> <li>(7) 504(a) P.C.</li> </ul> <p>B. The Vehicle Theft Report (CHP 180) - Officer's Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report Format - Stolen vehicle/or license plate(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All phone numbers - home, <u>work</u>, and addresses.</li> <li>b. Insurance company</li> <li>c. Peculiarities of stolen auto or points of identification.</li> <li>d. Contents of stolen vehicle.</li> <li>e. Financial background. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Lien holder</li> <li>(2) Repossession - (28 CVC)</li> <li>(3) Behind in payments???</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Confirmation of registered owner by DMV and/or reliable written documents.</li> </ul>	<p>Use: Illustrations #1, CHP form 180, or local forms.</p> <p>Note: Obtain State of California "Stolen Vehicle System (SVS)"s booklet for class handout.</p>



**Learning Goal 10.24.0:** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>3. Confirmation of VIN and license numbers.</p> <p>4. Interviewing victim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Very important, may be a repossessed vehicle or a domestic dispute.</li> <li>b. Other authorized driver/embezzled</li> <li>c. Leased or rented</li> <li>e. Lost rather than stolen</li> <li>f. Victim's signature on report (10501 CVC).</li> <li>g. Immediate entry into SVS of Vehicle Identification Number and license number. Explain NCIC.</li> </ul> <p>C. Types of Theft</p> <p>1. Thefts for transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Transportation theft accounts for the highest percentage of reported vehicle thefts, the vast majority being perpetrated by youths.</li> <li>b. Vehicles stolen for transportation are frequently abandoned after a few hours, normally before a report of the theft has been filed with the local law enforcement agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Generally, the thief does not intend to keep the vehicle. The thief may return it near the scene of the theft, close to home, where the fuel supply is exhausted, at the scene of an accident, or where the vehicle breaks down.</li> <li>(2) Sometimes another theft is reported close to the location where the original stolen vehicle is abandoned.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Use: Handout #1 - Vehicle Theft Laws. (Covers most laws pertaining to auto theft).</p>

## Learning Goal

10.24.0: The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>2. Theft for use in another criminal act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. For use as the getaway vehicle in a robbery.</li> <li>b. The vehicle in this case is usually recovered within a short distance of the scene of the crime.</li> <li>c. The thief will either transfer to another vehicle close by or simply walk away from the scene.</li> <li>d. Some criminals change the identity of the vehicle and use it as a "work car" for extended periods of time. Burglars and car thieves frequently use stolen cars and trucks in this way by altering the VIN and repainting the vehicle.</li> </ul>	
<p>3. Thefts for profit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The types of theft previously discussed in Sections 1 and 2 reflect no intention to permanently deprive the owner of the vehicle, any of the component parts, accessories, or personal property.</li> <li>b. Some thefts, however, are committed primarily for profit. These thefts involve resale, stripping, and sale of component parts. This permanently deprives the owner of his property. (487.3 P.C.)</li> </ul>	<p>Note: Use Handout #2. Vehicle Theft Cycle.</p>
<p>D. How to Recognize a Possible Stolen Vehicle (clues).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the vehicle have the door or trunk locks missing or is the trunk wired shut?</li> <li>2. Are the side vent windows cracked or broken?</li> <li>3. Are the license plates bent down, covered with tape or cloth, or do the letters or numerals appear altered?</li> </ul>	<p>10.24.1 See front of document</p>

**Learning Goal 10.24.0:** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Are the license plates insecurely fastened or fastened with wire, or new bolts on old plates, or vice-versa?</li> <li>5. Does the vehicle display inconsistent license plates, such as commercial plate on passenger vehicle or vice-versa, old series plate on new vehicle?</li> <li>6. Do the front and rear plates display the same numerals and letters?</li> <li>7. Is the vehicle being pushed or towed, with or without lights, at night? This is a common "M.O." of the thief in removing stolen vehicles.</li> <li>8. Does the vehicle VIN match the registration papers or does the VIN appear to have been altered?</li> <li>9. Trash and debris around and under the vehicle, windows open in inclement weather, etc.</li> <li>10. Evidence of stripping or parts theft.</li> <li>11. Vehicle is illegally parked or parked for excessive periods of time. (Multiple citations on windshield)</li> <li>12. Are there keys in the ignition? Is it the correct key for that vehicle? Is the key altered?</li> <li>13. Does the vehicle display license plates that have been reported stolen or belong to another vehicle?</li> <li>14. No identification or vehicle registration available when the car is stopped.</li> <li>15. Clean license plates on dirty vehicle or vice versa.</li> <li>16. Driver is unfamiliar with vehicle; erratic driving; location of accessories.</li> </ol>	<p>Note: Caution - some plates are transferable with owner. (Personalized plates).</p>

**Learning Goal 10.24.0:** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>17. DMV registration shows recent "salvage" and vehicle show no sign or</p> <p>E. Investigation of Occupied Vehicles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep in mind that recoveries are often made <u>prior</u> to the owner's report of theft and that many vehicles are stolen for use in other felony crimes if the vehicle is occupied. Approach the occupant(s) with caution, as they may be armed.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ask the driver to shut off the engine. Is there a key, is the vehicle "hot wired", or is a broken key jammed into the ignition?</li> <li>b. Does the suspect have the necessary documentation of ownership for the vehicle? Can the driver recite the name and address shown on the registration?</li> <li>c. Does the suspect volunteer more information than has been requested?</li> <li>d. Is the suspect able to answer all questions with a degree of ease, or does the suspect appear nervous?</li> <li>e. Did the driver jump from the vehicle and run back to you as soon as he was stopped?</li> <li>f. Does the driver try to hold the conversation away from his vehicle?</li> <li>g. Does the direction the vehicle is heading agree with where the subject states he is coming from or going to?</li> <li>h. Does the driver have the trunk or gas cap key or know outright which key goes to the trunk or gas cap?</li> <li>i. Is the driver familiar with the vehicle's controls and accessories?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Note: See Handout #3, Check Points.</p>

**Learning Goal 10.24.α** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>F. Modus Operandi of the Vehicle Thief</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tools used. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Coat hanger</li> <li>b. Hot wire</li> <li>c. Slam hammer (dent puller)</li> <li>d. Screwdriver</li> <li>e. Alternate ignition or false ignition key</li> <li>f. Slimjim</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Method of entry. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Side windwing, forced, pried, or broken.</li> <li>b. Pull lock from door.</li> <li>c. Defeat door locks.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Method used to start vehicle. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hot wire (at ignition or in engine compartment)</li> <li>b. Substitute ignition switch (G.M. cars)</li> <li>c. Slam hammer on ignition switch</li> <li>d. Punched ignition switch</li> <li>e. Break steering column opposite ignition switch (GM cars)</li> <li>f. Key</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>G. The VIN system - Vehicle Identification Number</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. History. In 1954, the Automobile Manufacturers Association designated the VIN as the only number to be used for identification. However, the</li> </ol>	<p>10.24.2 See front of document</p>

**Learning Goal 10.24.a** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>state motor vehicle departments did not fully accept the VIN as the only number to be used for registration purposes until the late 1950s. Thus, any number appearing on the engine of older model vehicles may also be the identification number shown on the individual owner's title, and should be checked against registration and stolen records when ownership is being traced.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1970 will have a repeat of the VIN number on the DOT Federal sticker.</li> <li>3. Cars and light trucks manufactured prior to 1981 will generally have VINs of 13 characters or less. 1981 and newer cars and light trucks will have standard 17-character VINs.</li> <li>4. Interpretation of VIN.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Manufacturer.</li> <li>b. Series and body style.</li> <li>c. Transmission and body type.</li> <li>d. Model year, assembly plant.</li> <li>e. Sequential production number.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Legitimate methods of attachments and general locations - (See NATB chart for specific locations).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Attachments of VIN plates                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Some vehicles manufactured prior to the mid 1960's had VIN plates attached by spot welds.</li> <li>(2) Most late model vehicle VIN plates are attached by rivets. Rosette Rivets (6 sided) are only used on domestic vehicles.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Note: CHP Auto Theft Officer at Division Offices can be used as a resource as can the CHP VIN Officer, also at Division and many area offices.</p> <p>Audio Visual - 35mm slide presentation by Alameda County Auto Theft Task force titled "Altered VIN Plates."</p>

**Learning Goal 10.24.0:** The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>b. Locations of VIN plates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Most vehicles manufactured prior to 1968 attached their VIN plates on the firewall, fenderwell, and sometimes on driver's side doorpost.</li> <li>(2) Beginning in 1968, all domestic car VIN plates were attached so they were visible through the windshield, most on the driver's side. Exception was the 1968 Ford which was located on the passenger side.</li> <li>(3) Beginning in 1969 all VIN plates were located on the driver's side.</li> </ul> <p>H. Removed or Altered VIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Methods used to change VIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dymotape placed over true VIN.</li> <li>b. Removal of true VIN plate and replacing it with substitute "cold" VIN plate.</li> <li>c. Insertion of "cold" VIN plate over true VIN plate.</li> <li>d. Alteration of characters of true VIN plate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Removal or alteration of federal sticker on door or door post is <u>not</u> a crime.</li> </ul> <p>I. Preliminary Investigation Subsequent to the Recovery of the Vehicle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officer's responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Check neighborhood for possible witnesses.</li> <li>b. Check for recent body damage.</li> <li>c. <u>Be careful</u> not to get your fingerprints on the vehicle.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Note: Some people think the "firing order" on the manifold is a serial number - remember it must be stamped.</p>

**Learning Goal** 10.24.0: The student will have a working knowledge of the responding officer's task in an alleged auto theft investigation.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>d. Look for possible clues and evidence left behind by suspects. Many have dropped credit cards or other identification in vehicles.</li><li>e. Make sure both license plates and the VIN plates are attached.</li><li>f. If something puzzles you, "<u>ASK</u>" someone with experience in auto theft for help.</li><li>g. Document all investigative activity in your report.</li></ul> <p>J. Summary Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. REMINDER: If the officer suspects the vehicle is stolen, <u>run the VIN, not just the plates.</u> <u>Don't rely solely</u> upon the SVS system check that the vehicle is not stolen. Many times a stolen vehicle may not yet be reported by the owner.</li><li>2. There have been a number of instances where owners have recovered their vehicles and not reported the recoveries.</li></ul>	



**Learning Goal 9.15.0:** The student will understand how to impound and store vehicles.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>II. VEHICLE STORAGE OR IMPOUND (9.15.0)</p> <p>A. Definitions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Storage tow <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Removing a vehicle from public or private property.</li> <li>b. Vehicle can be released to the owner with proper identification for himself and the vehicle.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Impound tow <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Removing a vehicle from public or private property while the investigation is still in progress. (Police hold)</li> <li>b. Vehicle can be released to the owner only after the impounding agency authorizes a release.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>B. Storage of vehicles: CHP Form 180 or appropriate local form will be completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When vehicle is apparently abandoned, 22669 CVC</li> <li>2. When vehicle must be removed from its present location because of a traffic hazard (22651(b) CVC).</li> <li>3. Under certain conditions when an arrest is made, 22651(h), as per local agency policy.</li> <li>4. Vehicle may be stored for safekeeping. (22651(g)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In an arrest situation, officers shall advise the owner/driver prior to storing vehicle that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The vehicle may be secured, legally parked and left at the location.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>9.15.1 See front of document</p>

**Learning Goal 9.15.0:** The student will understand how to impound and store vehicles.

Unit Outline & Presentation	Objectives & Instructional Cues
<p>(2) May be released to a <u>designated responsible</u> person who is present and will accept and care for the vehicle.</p> <p>C. Impounding of Vehicles CHP Form 180 or Appropriate Local Form Will Be Completed When:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vehicle is held for investigation. (22655.5)</li> <li>2. Vehicle is held for prints. (22655.5 (Evidence) or 22651(c) CVC)</li> <li>3. Vehicle involved in hit and run. (22655 CVC or 22653(b) (Private property))</li> <li>4. Vehicle is stolen, recovered, and not released in the field. (22651(c) CVC)</li> <li>5. Vehicle is abandoned and with VIN removed. (10751 CVC)</li> </ol>	<p>9.15.2 Given a practical exercise, the student will prepare a storage or impound report.</p>

**SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

**AND**

**REFERENCES**

## VEHICLE THEFT

### LAWS GOVERNING VEHICLE THEFT

#### 10851 V.C. Theft and Unlawful Driving or Taking of a Vehicle (Felony)

Any person who:

- a. drives or takes
- b. without consent of owner
- c. with intent either permanently or temporarily to deprive owner
- d. with or without intent to steal.

#### 10852 V.C. Breaking or Removing Vehicle Parts (Misdemeanor)

Any person who:

- a. willfully injures or tampers
- b. with any vehicle or contents thereof
- c. breaks or removes any part
- d. without consent of owner.

#### 10853 V.C. Malicious Mischief to Vehicle (Misdemeanor)

No person shall:

- a. with the intent to commit any malicious mischief, injury, or other crime
- b. climb into or upon (whether in motion or at rest)
- c. attempt to manipulate levers, starting mechanism, brakes, or other mechanism (while vehicle at rest)
- d. set in motion any vehicle while at rest or unattended.

#### 10854 V.C. Unlawful Use or Tampering by Bailee (Misdemeanor)

Every person having the storage, care, safekeeping, custody, or possession of any vehicle subject to registration who:

- a. without consent of owner

- b. takes, hires, runs, drives, or uses the vehicle
- c. removes any part thereof.

#### 10855 V.C. Leased and Rented Vehicles

Any person who has leased or rented a vehicle who:

- a. willfully and intentionally fails to return vehicle to owner within five days after the lease or rental agreement has expired
- b. shall be presumed to have embezzled the vehicle
- c. theft may be charged under Section 487.3 P.C., 504(a) P.C., or 10851 CVC.

#### 487.3 P.C. Grand Theft (Felony)

When the property taken is an automobile, the elements of theft apply as in any other type of theft:

- a. intent to permanently deprive owner
- b. does not apply to vehicles other than automobiles (unless value of other type of vehicle exceeds \$400).

#### 496 P.C. Stolen Property, Buying - Presumption (Felony)

Every person who:

- a. buys, receives, or has in his possession any property that has been stolen
- b. with the knowledge that the property is stolen
- c. must make reasonable inquiry as to origin of property, or shall be presumed to have knowledge that the property is stolen.

#### 499(b) P.C. Taking Auto, Motorcycle, or Other Vehicle Temporarily (Misdemeanor)

Any person who:

- a. without permission of owner
- b. takes any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle or motorboat or vessel
- c. for temporary use or operation.

503 P.C.      Embezzlement

- a. the fraudulent appropriation of property by a person to whom it has been entrusted,
- b. including property obtained by way of lease or rental agreements or contracts of purchase defined under Section 504(a) P.C.

NOTE: A distinct act of taking is not necessary to constitute embezzlement, and the offense is punishable in the manner prescribed for theft of property of the value or kind embezzled and may be charged under 484 or 487.3 P.C.

504(a) - Fraudulent concealment of leased, rented, or vehicles under purchase agreement.

REPORTS OF THEFT

10500 V.C.    Police Reports (Infraction)

Whenever a peace officer has reliable information that:

- a. a vehicle or license plate(s)
- b. has been stolen, taken, or driven in violation of Section 10851 V.C.
- c. he must immediately report theft to the Department of Justice (Stolen Vehicle System).

10501(a) V.C. False Report of Theft (Misdemeanor)

It is unlawful for any person:

- a. to make or file a false or fraudulent report of theft
- b. of any vehicle required to be registered
- c. with any law enforcement agency
- d. with intent to deceive.

10502 V.C.    Reports by Owner (Infraction)

Any owner may report the theft or embezzlement of a vehicle. If the vehicle has been embezzled a warrant of arrest must be issued before the vehicle can be entered into the Department of Justice Stolen Vehicle System. This is because of the fine line between a criminal and civil complaint.

148.5 P.C. Falsely Reporting Crime (Misdemeanor)

Every person who:

- a. reports any crime
- b. knowing the report to be false.

ALTERATION OR REMOVAL OF NUMBER

10751 V.C. Alteration of Manufacturer's Numbers or Weight Ratings  
(Misdemeanor)

No person shall knowingly:

- a. buy, receive, dispose of, sell, offer for sale, or have in his possession
- b. any vehicle or component thereof
- c. from which a manufacturer's serial or identification number, motor number, has been removed, defaced, covered, altered or destroyed.
- d. this section also provides law enforcement with the authority by the court to dispose of vehicles or components taken into custody.
- e. Replacement identification numbers (CA and original VIN) can be attached to the vehicle by CHP at the direction of DMV.

OTHER RELATED CALIFORNIA LAWS

28 V.C. Notification of Repossession (Infraction)

Whenever possession is taken of a vehicle on behalf of any legal owner:

- a. reposessor must immediately notify local law enforcement agency
- b. written notice must follow within 24 hours of repossession.

4461 V.C. Improper Use of Evidences of Registration (Infraction)

No person shall:

- a. lend any certificate of ownership, registration card, license plate, or permit
- b. if borrower is not entitled to use thereof

- c. nor shall any person knowingly permit the use thereof by one not entitled thereto.

4462 V.C. Presentation of Valid Registration Card for Examination  
(Infraction)

- a. driver must present evidence of registration upon demand of any peace officer (4462a)
- b. no person shall display upon a vehicle, or present to a peace officer any registration card, identification card, temporary receipt, license plate, or permit not issued or otherwise lawfully used thereon. (4462b)

4463 V.C. False Evidences of Registration (Felony)

Any person who:

- a. with the intent to defraud
- b. alters, forges, counterfeits, or falsifies
- c. any certificate of ownership, registration card, certificate, license, special plate, permit or any comparable form from foreign jurisdiction
- d. and represents same as having been issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

4464 V.C. Altered License Plate (Infraction)

No person shall display upon a vehicle a license plate altered from its original markings.

466 P.C. Burglary Tools

Any person who:

- a. with the intent to feloniously enter a vehicle, vessel, etc.
- b. home made lockpicks, filed keys, slimjims, etc., fall in this category.

466.5 P.C. Motor Vehicle Master Key (Misdemeanor)

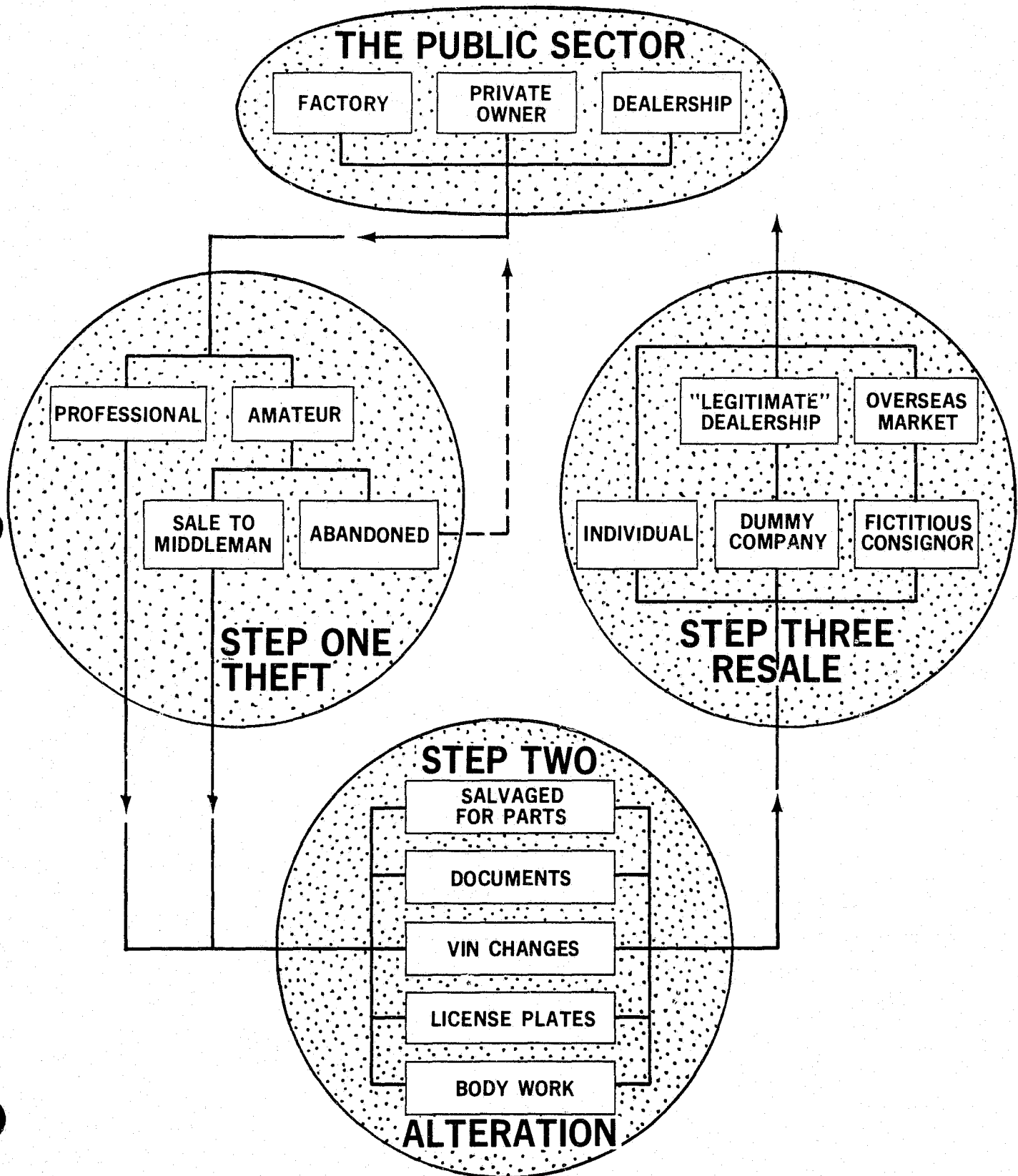
Any person who:

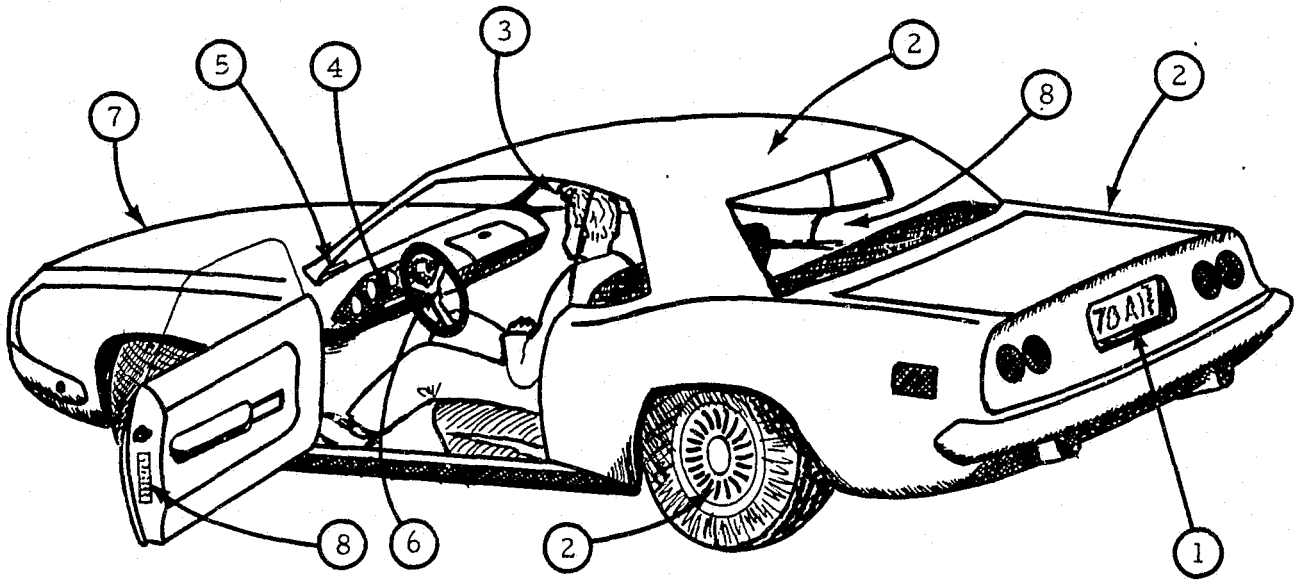
- a. possesses a vehicle master key with the intent to use it in the commission of an unlawful act.



NOTE: "Vehicle master key" means a key that will operate all locks or ignition switches of a given group or series of vehicle locks or ignitions where each of which can be operated by a key which will not work on another lock or ignition.

# The Vehicle Theft Cycle





REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT "8" WHEN YOU INVESTIGATE

- 1) LICENSE PLATES: a. Front and rear, b. Condition of plates  
c. How mounted.
- 2) GENERAL EXTERIOR: a. Distinctive characteristics, b. Evidence of forced entry, pry and tool marks, c. License numbers on hub caps.
- 3) ID OF DRIVER AND PASSENGERS: a. Compare signature, address, etc. on Operator's License, registration slip & other I.D. b. When requested search for evidence.
- 4) REGISTRATION SLIP: Compare with information on Operator's License, license plates, serial plate, engine number.
- 5) SERIAL PLATE: Compare with information on registration slip and look for possible tampering.
- 6) IGNITION: a. Does the key belong to that vehicle, b. Check for tampering and hot wiring under dash.
- 7) ENGINE COMPARTMENT: a. Compare engine and serial numbers with registration slip, b. Check for tampering.
- 8) GENERAL INTERIOR: a. Search glove compartment, behind sun visors, ash trays, under seats, dash and floor mat, all personal articles, b. Lubrication stickers, c. Note the mileage.

## ILLUSTRATION #1

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

☐ IMPOUNDED ☐ RECOVERED ☐ STORED ☐ RELEASED - VEHICLE REPORT

Use reverse for reporting Em-bezzled/Stolen Vehicles/Plates.

REPORTING DEPARTMENT				LOCATION CODE		DATE/TIME REPORTED		FILE NUMBER		
LOCATION TOWED/RECOVERED FROM				WAS NEIGHBORHOOD OR AREA CHECKED FOR WITNESSES, LEADS, CLUES? IF "YES", EXPLAIN IN REMARKS OR ON SEPARATE SHEET(S). <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO						
TOWING/STORAGE CONCERN NAME AND ADDRESS				TELEPHONE NUMBER		TOWED TO/STORED AT		TELEPHONE NUMBER		
REPORTED BY				HOME ADDRESS				TELEPHONE NUMBER		
				BUSINESS ADDRESS				TELEPHONE NUMBER		
<b>DESCRIPTION AND OWNERSHIP</b>										
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY TYPE	COLOR (combination)		LICENSE NUMBER(S) <input type="checkbox"/> ONE <input type="checkbox"/> TWO		MONTH/YEAR	STATE	
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)			ENGINE NUMBER (EN)		VIN COMPARE WITH REG. CARD <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	VIN APPEAR ALTERED/REMOV'D <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	VIN CLEAR IN SVS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	LIC. NUMBER(S) CLEAR IN SVS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
IF STOLEN, NAME, DATE AND CASE NUMBER OF REPORTING AGENCY						WAS VEH. RETURNED TO OWNER <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		STORAGE AUTHORITY		
REGISTERED OWNER			ADDRESS				TELEPHONE(S) (home and business)			
LEGAL OWNER			ADDRESS				TELEPHONE(S) (home and business)			
<b>CONDITION AND INVENTORY</b> (Use Remarks space or attach separate descriptions as needed.)										
ODOMETER READING		DRIVEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		HAVE YOU ENTERED MISSING, IDENTIFIABLE PARTS IN SVS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				*describe fully		
CONDITION	YES	NO	ITEMS	YES	NO	ITEMS	YES	NO	ITEMS	CONDITION
WRECKED			SEAT (front)			REGISTRATION			HUB CAPS (# )	TIRES/WHEELS
BURNED			SEAT (rear)			ALT/GENERATOR			SPECIAL WHEELS	LEFT FRONT
VANDALIZED			RADIO			BATTERY			DRIVING LIGHTS	RIGHT FRONT
ENG/TRANS STRIP			TAPE DECK			DIFFERENTIAL			CAMPER*	LEFT REAR
MISC. PARTS STRIP			TAPES (# )			TRANSMISSION			CARGO*	RIGHT REAR
BODY METAL STRIP			OTHER RADIO			AUTOMATIC ( )			VESSEL AS LOAD*	SPARE(S)
VIN SWITCH			IGNITION KEY			MANUAL ( )			FIREARM(S)*	
LIST PROPERTY, TOOLS, VEHICLE DAMAGE, ARRESTS (full names, charges, where detained)										
OFFICER ORDERING VEHICLE STORED (signature)						I.D. NUMBER		GARAGE PRINCIPAL OR AGENT STORING VEH (signature)		DATE AND TIME
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUED ON SEPARATE SHEET										
<b>VALUATION, RELEASE, DISPOSITION</b>										
RECOVERY TELETYPE (date and number)		REQUIRED NOTICES SENT TO REGISTERED & LEGAL OWNERS (Sec. 22852 VC) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				IF NO IS CHECKED, INDICATE REASON <input type="checkbox"/> AVA PROGRAM				
APPRAISED VALUE		DATE AND TIME OF APPRAISAL				APPRAISING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE				I.D. NUMBER
To (storage authority/concern)								DATE		
RELEASE VEHICLE TO						ADDRESS				
SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZING RELEASE						CERTIFICATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am legally authorized and entitled to take possession of above described vehicle.				
NOTE: CHP 180 IS FURNISHED TO PEACE OFFICERS BY THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL.						SIGNATURE OF PERSON TAKING POSSESSION				

V.I.N.

## ILLUSTRATION #2

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

☐ STOLEN VEHICLE ☐ EMBEZZLED VEHICLE ☐ PLATE(S) REPORTUse reverse for reporting Vehicles/Plates  
Impounded, Recovered, Stored or Released.

REPORTING DEPARTMENT		LOCATION CODE	DATE	FILE NUMBER
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE			WAS NEIGHBORHOOD OR AREA CHECKED FOR THE VEHICLE AND/OR WITNESSES, LEADS, CLUES? IF "YES", EXPLAIN IN REMARKS OR ON SEPARATE SHEET(S). <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
DATE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE	REPORTED BY		DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AND STATE	
REPORTING PERSON'S NAME AND ADDRESS			TELEPHONE NUMBER	
BUSINESS ADDRESS			TELEPHONE NUMBER	

## DESCRIPTION AND OWNERSHIP

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY TYPE	COLOR (combination)	LICENSE NUMBER(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> ONE <input type="checkbox"/> TWO	MONTH/YEAR	STATE
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)				ENGINE NUMBER (EN)	TRANS. TYPE	OWNER'S VALUATION \$		
IDENTIFYING MARKS, DAMAGE, INTERIOR (describe color(s), if customized, etc.) CONTINUE IN REMARKS AS NECESSARY								
REGISTERED OWNER			ADDRESS			TELEPHONE(S) (home and business)		
LEGAL OWNER			ADDRESS			TELEPHONE(S) (home and business)		
LAST DRIVER OF VEHICLE			TIME AND DATE	ADDRESS		TELEPHONE(S) (home and business)		
INSURANCE CARRIER (if applicable)				ADDRESS		TELEPHONE		

## CONDITION AND INVENTORY (Use Remarks space or attach separate descriptions as needed.)

ITEMS	YES	NO	ITEMS	YES	NO	ITEMS (*describe fully)	YES	NO	OTHER ITEMS
PAYMENTS CURRENT?			RADIO (am/fm)			CAMPER*			
DOORS LOCKED?			TAPE DECK			CARGO*			
IGNITION LOCKED?			OTHER RADIO(S)*			VESSEL AS LOAD*			
KEYS IN VEHICLE?			SPECIAL WHEELS*			FIREARMS*			

## SUSPECTS

NAME						ADDRESS			
1	RACE	SEX	AGE/BIRTHDATE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	C I I NUMBER
NAME						ADDRESS			
2	RACE	SEX	AGE/BIRTHDATE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	C I I NUMBER

## REMARKS (Use additional blank sheets as required. Include all pertinent information.)


☐ CONTINUED ON SEPARATE SHEET

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER/EMPLOYEE ACCEPTING REPORT				AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby affirm to the best of my knowledge that the information on this form is true and accurate.					
TITLE				I.D. NO.	SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING REPORT				

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

EMBEZZLEMENT WARRANT ISSUED IF YES, WARRANT NUMBER				COURT ISSUING					
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO									
ENTRY MADE IN SVS				TIME/DATE				PERSON MAKING ENTRY	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO									

V.I.N.

## Reference Materials

This section is set up as reference information for use by training institutions. These materials can be utilized for prime instruction; remediation, additional reading, viewing or for planning local units of instruction. They are presented here as instructional materials that may assist the learner or the academy staff in the teaching-learning process. Each training institution is encouraged to expand this list but only after careful viewing and reading to determine its acceptability.

California Vehicle Code.

California Penal Code.

Recent case law

In no way is this list an endorsement of any author, publisher, producer, or presentation. Each training institution must read or view these materials, and others to establish their own list of reference materials.