



GET A WARRANT TO SEARCH A CELL PHONE

Searching a student's cell phone
by the SRO could involve a
Fourth Amendment Search
and Seizure violation.

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ABOUT US

Directors, Maureen and Doug Walgren are the parents of Corey, age 16, who lost his life by suicide on 1/11/17 immediately after being questioned at school by the dean and SRO about a disciplinary incident. They believe his civil rights were violated and there was no consideration given to his emotional state. They are currently in litigation with the school district and police department.

Maureen works as a registered nurse in an elementary school and has a background working in psychiatric nursing. She is a member of the National Association of School Nurses. Maureen and Doug's mission with Corey's Goal is to raise awareness of the civil rights of students as well as encourage SROs, law enforcement and school administrators to take a look at their policies and procedures and put measures in place that can better protect students during serious disciplinary situations.

Through Corey's Goal, they are speaking out on behalf of all students and parents and want what is in the best interest of all parties involved. They believe there are simple measures that can be put in place that will help protect schools and SROs from litigation at the same time would help keep students safe.

IN MEMORY OF COREY



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DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICERS AND
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE PROTECTING STUDENTS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Department of Education, Department of Justice, NASRO and many state school boards recommend having a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) between the school and police department that employs a School Resource Officer (**SRO**). A detailed **MOU** clearly spells out the role of the **SRO** in the school setting. These same agencies agree the **SROs** should NOT be involved in routine disciplinary incidents at school. Often times the **SRO** serves multiple purposes such as law enforcer, educator and informal counselor. If a **SRO** is involved in questioning a student or in restoring order, is he/she acting as a law enforcer, educator, or counselor? The lines between these roles can be easily blurred. These lines can be clarified through a well-constructed **MOU**.

MOUs CAN
—
INCREASE SAFETY
PREVENT CONFUSION
AVOID CONFLICT

PROPER TRAINING FOR SROs

SROs are often asked to play the role of law enforcement officer, teacher and informal counselor. Most states do not require a training minimum for **SROs**. However, understanding the teenage brain, keeping up with electronic media and understanding the civil rights of students is crucial when working in schools. Protect yourself by getting additional training.

Here are just a few areas where thorough and regular training is necessary:

- Emerging education issues
- State & Federal laws including civil rights of students
- Crisis intervention and prevention
- Adolescent psychology and mental health
- Restorative justice
- Record keeping
- Cultural differences
- Special education accommodations
- Social media, Cyber bullying, and electronic devices
- Responding to intruders and threats to safety
- De-escalation
- Suicide prevention
- Sexting

CONSIDER THE TEENAGE BRAIN

Working with and policing teens requires an understanding of the underdeveloped teenage brain. It's not uncommon for teens to have impulsive thoughts and engage in risky behavior. **Students should not be criminalized for typical teenage behavior.** There are many ways to discipline a teen for inappropriate behavior in the school setting without turning it into a police investigation. Serious disciplinary situations with the presence of law enforcement can invoke extreme fear, emotional distress and shame in students. Authors of the book "*Suicide in Schools*" point out that "careful consideration needs to be given to students put in serious disciplinary situations because even kids who have never had a suicidal thought can become suicidal." Students should never be left alone or unattended after being confronted by school administrators or **SROs** and should be handed over directly to their parent or guardian. School policies and procedures should support the social/emotional wellness of students in disciplinary situations.