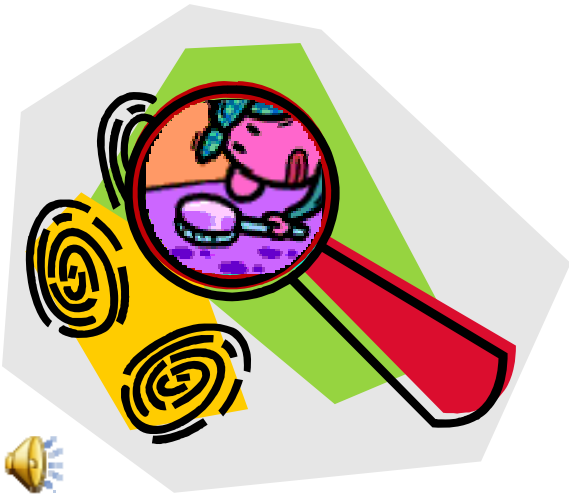




# FORENSIC SCIENCE

## EVIDENCE



# The Legal Significance of Evidence

If the Responding Officer's findings upon arriving on a scene of an incident show that a criminal law has been broken, then **proof** must be established.



# Corpus delicti



(Latin for **“body of the crime”**) –  
is the material facts  
showing that a crime has  
been committed.

# The Legal Significance of Evidence

Corpus delicti

(Latin for *“body of the crime”*) –  
is the material facts  
showing that a crime has  
been committed.

You can't have

Corpus  
delicti

Crime

one without



the other





# The Legal Significance of Evidence

## *Corpus delicti*

In the case of a death, the dead body is NOT the Corpus delicti. Instead, it is **the evidence that indicates criminal wrong-doing** that is the Corpus delicti.

Cut break lines, a bullet hole in the window, etc. are the pieces of evidence needed to prove that a crime has been committed.



# The Legal Significance of Evidence

Corpus delicti

CAN BE

*prima facie*  
evidence

**“On the surface”** evidence that is sufficient on its own to establish a given fact or guilt of committing a crime.

# The Legal Significance of Evidence

**Corpus delicti**

**CAN BE**

*circumstantial*  
**evidence**

Seemingly disconnected facts from which proof of a crime being committed can be deducted.

# The Legal Significance of Evidence

## Corpus delicti

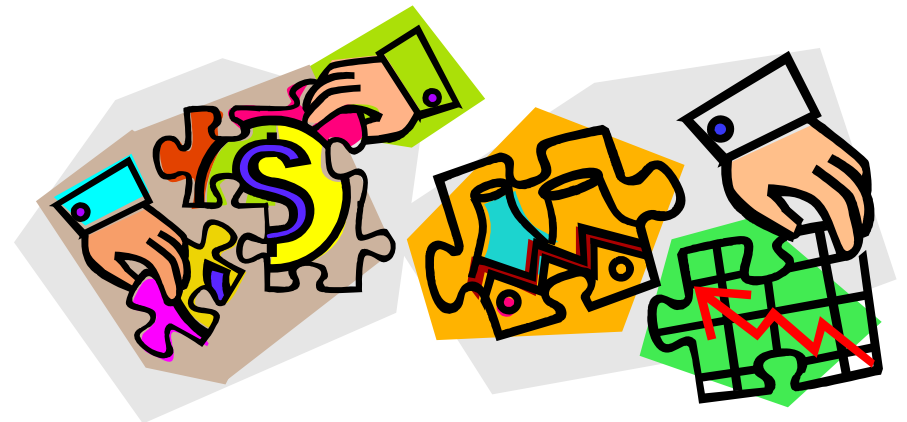
**CAN BE**

**-OR-**

**CAN BE**

*prima facie*  
**evidence**

*circumstantial*  
**evidence**



# Rules of Evidence

- Guidelines that ensure that evidence collected will be admissible in court.

## U.S. Constitution



The *Fourth Amendment* of the U.S. Constitution protects citizens from **illegal searches and seizures.**

# Rules of Evidence

- Guidelines that ensure that evidence collected will be admissible in court.

## Exclusionary Rule



**Evidence** obtained **in violation** of the U.S. Constitution is **inadmissible** in court.



# Rules of Evidence

- Guidelines that ensure that evidence collected will be admissible in court.

# Relevancy



**Evidence** used in court must **relate to, or bear directly on,** the fact at issue – if not ... admissibility in court may be **denied.**

# Rules of Evidence

- Guidelines that ensure that evidence collected will be admissible in court.

## Materiality



**Evidence** used in court must be **important enough to influence** the court's opinion – if not ... admissibility in court may be **denied**.

# Rules of Evidence

- Guidelines that ensure that evidence collected will be admissible in court.

## Competency



The piece of **evidence** OR of a **witness** offering testimony must be **credible** – if not ... admissibility in court may be **denied**.

# Rules of Evidence

- Guidelines that ensure that evidence collected will be admissible in court.

**Exclusionary Rule** 📢

**Relevancy** 📢

**Materiality** 📢

**Competency** 📢