

The meaning of search and seizure, to get this you first need to know the meaning of both words. A search is when an examination of a person, place or vehicle is conducted in the *search* of evidence or contraband. A seizure is an apprehension of contraband or evidence by law enforcement or another government agency, a seizure can include people as well.

The practice of search and seizure originated in England under two different titles. The first was called a Writ of Assistance, which was used to search ships and merchants for illegal goods. The second was called General Warrants, these were used to search homes for evidence and wanted criminals.

From a law enforcement point of view search and seizure is a vital aspect to finding evidence or criminals. This doesn't mean that as a law enforcement official you have a right to perform an unreasonable search and seizure, that is what the Fourth Amendment protects the American citizens from. A law enforcement official needs to remember to remain impartial in any aspect of the job whether you're searching a respected officer or a known criminal.

The last thing I want to talk about is the topic of reasonable cause. That is the most important part of any search and seizure. If there is no reasonable cause then your case could get thrown out of court, and as an officer you'll face serious repercussions.

Source Cited: Harr, J. Scott, et al. Constitutional Law and the Criminal Justice System. Cengage Learning, 2018.