



Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



BERNARD MELEKIAN, Interim Chief of Police

Vol. 2022 No. 002

February 17, 2022

Disposal of Drug Paraphernalia

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Traditionally Officers have been expected to collect and book drug paraphernalia during misdemeanor arrests for possession of paraphernalia and other misdemeanor drug-related investigations. **The purpose of this training bulletin is to update our practice for collecting drug paraphernalia and to eliminate the need to collect paraphernalia for most investigations.**

Drug paraphernalia, such as glass pipes, straws, foil, improvised smoking devices, etc, is hazardous to collect and process. It usually contains the residue of dangerous drugs and often has sharp edges. The Santa Barbara Police Department currently has a policy in place which directs Officers to refrain from collecting syringes except under special circumstances, due to the hazardous nature of handling that type of evidence (see section 802.9).

Effective immediately, it will be the practice of the Santa Barbara Police Department to no longer collect or retain any drug paraphernalia from misdemeanor investigations. In lieu of collecting the paraphernalia, Officers will take photographs of the paraphernalia and book those photographs as digital evidence. If the Officer deems that the paraphernalia is dangerous, it can be disposed of in a manner consistent with the disposal of syringes (802.9.4).

Special Circumstances

If the Officer is investigating a homicide, suspicious death, sexual assault or any other felony case, the paraphernalia shall be booked.