

# Jurisdiction Cheatsheet

This page is designed to help new Officers/Agents determine who has jurisdiction on an investigation. It offers new trainees with the complex problems to determine who has jurisdiction on an investigation; however, this his paper is not designed to be the leading or final authority on who has jurisdiction. With this being said, it's still a useful tool when there is a complicated crime that needs to be handled and who is in charge of the investigation.

## Important Points

- 1** Each level has there own laws on jurisdiction. In some states, it can be different so make sure to check the laws of each state.
- 2** Each federal department has a different lead authority, like the DEA. The DEA investigate crimes solely based on large drug ordeals. Some agencies are complicated in the aspects of what they investigate and who their lead authorities are.

Let's walk through the departments below.

**US Marshals:**

US Marshals investigate crimes centered around people with a warrant out for their arrest.

It is the oldest federal agency which takes care of hunting down criminals with warrants, transporting criminals during their trial, and federal judge security.

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):**

Any investigation that revolves around aircraft and air traffic is under the lead jurisdiction of FAA, unless it is a robbery or a terrorist attack.

The FAA main investigation points are selling substandard aircraft, investigating rouge aircraft, and the theft of an airplane (not a hostage hijacking, AKA a nonviolent crime).

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has lead jurisdiction on investigations mainly focused on automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tires, and car seats.

This department normally investigates crimes that are committed by corporations like delivering products that don't meet regulations. an example would be volkswagen cheating on their emissions test for their new car.

**Federal Trade Commission (FTC):**

The Federal Trade Commission has lead investigational authority over the Dissatisfaction with Business Practices.

The job of the Federal Trade Commission is to enforce the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act. This act prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in commerce. Their second job is to act against companies with a monopoly over a certain market.

**The Food and Drug Administration (FDA):**

The Food and Drug Administration has lead investigational authority over cosmetics, drugs, food, medical devices, veterinary medicines, electronic product radiation, and tobacco/tobacco products.

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices. The FDA ensures the safety of our nation's food supply and cosmetics from products that emit radiation.

#### **The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**

The EPA has authority in investigations centered around environmental crimes that can significantly damage important aspects of life.

These crimes consist of dumping dangerous chemicals into water sources which violate the Clean Water Act, polluting the air, starting a forest fires, etc.

#### **The U.S. Coast Guard:**

The U.S. Coast Guard investigates crimes centered around boats or ships in American waters.

The U.S. Coast Guard surprisingly does not require a warrant to conduct a search, seizure, or arrests over any United States Waterway or high seas. The U.S. Coast Guard also has full, legal law enforcement power on any land under the control of the United States, as needed to complete their missions.

#### **The Occupational Safety & Health Administration:**

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration has lead investigation authority on crimes centered around industrial areas, commercial products, farms and other occupational businesses that provide products for human consumption or use.

The Occupational Safety & Health Administrations makes sure that working conditions are safe for workers. They investigate construction sights and make sure the company has kept up to the standards set for worker safety.

#### **The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation:**

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board have lead investigation authority in crimes centered around chemical safety.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board is a federal agency that investigates the root causes of major chemical incidents and makes sure that the American people are safe from chemical spills and hazards.

#### **The FBI:**

The FBI has lead investigation authority in crimes centered around the following: bank heists, terrorism, counterintelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white-collar crime, violent crime, and weapons of mass destruction.

The FBI mainly investigates violent crimes and crimes that would usually be State Jurisdiction but the crimes spread across multiple states.

#### **The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF):**

The ATF has lead investigation authority in crimes centered around firearms, arson, explosives, and illegal traffic of firearms.

ATF is a Federal agency primarily responsible for administering and enforcing the criminal and regulatory provisions of the Federal laws about destructive devices. They also investigate new products and determine where it falls in the laws set by Congress.

#### **The Department Of Homeland Security:**

The Department Of Homeland Security has lead investigation authority in crimes centered around border security, immigration, customs, terrorism, and cyber threats.

The Department Of Homeland Security mainly focuses on federal preparations to deal with terrorism, border security, customs and emergency management.

#### **The Secret Service:**

The Secret Service has lead investigation authority in crimes centered around threats against people in the high government. They also continue to investigate threats against the family of these members.

The Secret Service mainly investigates allegations, threats, and actual acts of aggression towards the people they protect. Once someone is assassinated or taken a hostage or after the crime is committed the FBI normally takes over the investigation.

#### **The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA):**

The DEA has lead investigation authority in crimes centered around drug smuggling and distribution within the United States.

The DEA investigates typically large drug distributors and drug distributors and usually work with homeland to bust larger drug traffickers. They are well known for starting at the basic level of drug pushers and investigating all the way up.