

# Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School

## POLICE SERVICES UNIT

*A Joint Unit of the Yarmouth Police & Dennis Police Departments*

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# **Constitutional Burdens of Proof**

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## ***Beyond a Reasonable Doubt***

*Facts that bring the judge or jury to a conclusion, to a moral certainty, that the defendant has committed a crime.*

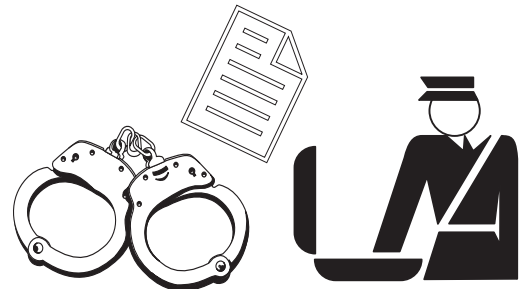
*Triggers criminal conviction and introduction to the probation or corrections systems.*



## ***Probable Cause***

*Facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable and prudent person to believe a crime has been, is being or will be committed.*

*Triggers arrests for felonies and some misdemeanors, and motor vehicle searches without a warrant, issuance of search & arrest warrants.*



## ***Reasonable Suspicion***

*Reasonable and articulable facts that lead a person to believe a crime may have been committed.*

*Triggers threshold inquiry, car stops, stop and frisk (for weapons), searches by school*



## ***Mere Suspicion***

*A hunch.*

*Triggers nothing Constitutionally but may cause a police officer to initiate an investigation.*

