



Roll Call Training Bulletin

Produced by: Detective Timothy Davis II, MCIU
Prepared by: Officer Mark Kimble, PSU

Kathy Lester, Chief of Police
Volume 25-12

Watson Admonishment (SPD 807)

08-07-2025

Background

In *People v. Watson* (1981), the California Supreme Court held that second degree murder may be charged when the facts surrounding a vehicular homicide support a finding of implied malice.

In 2006, California Vehicle Code § 23593 was enacted, requiring courts to read an admonition to all subjects convicted of driving under the influence:

23593. (a) The court shall advise a person convicted of a violation of Section 23103, as specified in Section 23103.5, or a violation of Section 23152 or 23153, as follows:

“You are hereby advised that being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, impairs your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Therefore, it is extremely dangerous to human life to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both. If you continue to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, and, because of that driving, someone is killed, you can be charged with murder.”

Application

To further establish intent in vehicular homicide cases, officers are required to read the Watson Admonishment verbatim to all subjects arrested for DUI.

The SPD 807, DUI Arrest Admonishment Form (pictured below), shall be included in each DUI arrest packet. The document is now available at all stations and on AMS. SPD General Order 537.01 (Driving Under the Influence Procedures), has been amended to include the Watson Admonishment:

A. I. WATSON ADMONISHMENT

1. In all DUI cases, officers shall:

- a. Read the DUI Arrest Admonishment (SPD 807) to the arrestee driver.
- b. Record admonishment reading on body-worn camera or in-car camera.
- c. Attempt to have arrestee sign the admonishment form.
- d. Provide arrestee with a completed copy of the form.



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<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center; margin: 0 20px;">SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT DUI ARREST ADMONISHMENT</div>				
ARRESTEE NAME:	CHARGES:			
DATE:	LOCATION OF ADMONISHMENT:			
WATSON ADVISAL <p>You have been charged with driving while impaired or a related offense. In accordance with section 23593 of the California Vehicle Code, you are being advised of the following:</p> <p>"You are hereby advised that being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, impairs your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Therefore, it is extremely dangerous to human life to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both.</p> <p>If you continue to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, and, as a result of that driving, someone is killed, you can be charged with murder."</p> <p>The purpose of this admonishment is to advise of the inherent dangers of driving while impaired and the potential consequences associated. Acknowledgement of this admonishment does not admit guilt of charged offenses.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"><hr style="width: 40%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Signature of Acknowledgement</div>				
NOTES:				
ADMINISTERING OFFICER	BADGE	DIV	DATE	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED TO SIGN</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> INCAPACITATED</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDED COPY</div>
APPROVED BY	BADGE	DIV	DATE	