

## 12.266 UTILIZATION OF VEHICLE ENTRY DEVICES

### **Definition:**

**Slim-Jim** A metal device which can be slipped between the window and molding of a vehicle's window to unlock the vehicle's door.

### **Purpose:**

Provide a guide for officers in the use of vehicle entry devices or Slim-Jims

### **Policy:**

Personally owned vehicle entry devices (Slim-Jims) may be carried by on duty personnel to expedite the police mission.

### **Information:**

Police officers possessing Slim-Jim tools for opening locked vehicles should be aware that a single type of Slim-Jim will not open all vehicles.

This procedure does not preclude the use of a Slim-Jim to execute a search warrant.

### **Procedure:**

- A. Police officers may utilize Slim-Jim devices in the following circumstances:
  1. To facilitate the removal of an auto that is blocking traffic or causing a hazard.
  2. Protection of life or property; (e.g., small child locked in auto).
  3. Conditions exist that the use of a Slim-Jim device would expedite the police mission. Some conditions to be considered include but are not limited to:
    - destitute nature of vehicle's driver
    - lateness of the hour
    - location of occurrence
    - a lack of alternative assistance
    - possible threat to vehicle/driver's safety
- B. Police officers utilizing the Slim-Jim to open autos, under the above circumstances, will first determine that the requesting person is the owner of the vehicle or legally entitled to entry.
  1. Owners must be informed of the possibility of damage to the vehicle.

2. Damage to vehicles resulting from the use of a Slim-Jim other than as described in A.2. will be the personal responsibility of the user of the device.
  - a. Officers should be aware of newer model vehicles with anti theft devices and safety equipment (e.g., side impact airbags).
- C. Police Communications Section (PCS) will not dispatch police units to utilize Slim-Jim devices except in the circumstances described in A.2.