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**Submission date:** 22-Jun-2021 05:41PM (UTC-0500)

**Submission ID:** 1610814212

**File name:** John\_Smith\_Law\_Case\_Study.edited.docx (15.81K)

**Word count:** 349

**Character count:** 1900

**John Smith Law Case Study**

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### **John Smith Law Case Study**

In the fictitious case, the law enforcement had sufficient probable cause for Mr. John Smith's arrest. Accordingly, the law enforcement officer made an investigative stop after noticing Smith's vehicle and having reasonable suspicions about it. The officer noticed the car in the neighborhood of the quick shop that bore a Liberty University parking pass. The officer relied on his knowledge and expertise and his potential understanding of the earlier theft.

In Terry versus Ohio, the Supreme Court of the United States made a landmark determination. The court made a ruling referring the Fourth Amendment of the American constitution that a law enforcement officer has every right to stop a suspicious individual on the roads and frisk them devoid of probable cause of arrest if the officer has sufficient reason to believe that the individual in question has committed, is committing, or intend to engage in criminality, or believes that the person is armed and dangerous (Cornell Law School, n.d.). Based on the court's determination, probable cause and individual suspicion are substituted with reasonable suspicion due to the urgency of rapid action grounded upon the on-the-spot observations made by a law enforcement officer.

Mr. John Smith, the suspected driver's physical description matches that of the suspected robber, coupled with his attire. Since the victim's account described a white male donning a Liberty University cap and t-shirt, the officer had sufficient reasonable suspicion to conduct the investigatory stop. In addition to the clothing, Mr. John Smith was positively identified by the victim from the picture entered in a photo array as the robber. Based on the entirety of the situation, and the short time after the robbery had occurred, the proximity of Mr. John Smith to the scene of the crime, his matching description, and the clothes he wore, the law enforcement officer had sufficient probable cause to obtain a warrant of arrest for Mr. John Smith.

### References

Cornell Law School. (n.d.). *John W. Terry, petitioner, v. State of Ohio*. LII / Legal Information Institute. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/392/1>

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