

Case	Facts	Ruling
<i>Whren v. United States</i> (1996)	After stopping a driver for a traffic violation, police observe and seize two plastic bags of what appears to be cocaine in the passenger's hands.	There was probable cause for the traffic stop, allowing the police to observe what appeared to be illegal drugs. Seizure is valid.
<i>Wyoming v. Houghton</i> (1999)	A police officer stops a car for a faulty brake light and sees a hypodermic syringe in the driver's pocket. The driver admits to drug use. The officer searches the car and finds illegal drugs in a passenger's purse.	If probable cause justifies a search of a lawfully stopped vehicle, it justifies the search of every part of the vehicle and every article or container therein that might conceal the object of the search.
<i>Illinois v. Lidster</i> (2004)	Seeking an unknown hit-and-run driver, police set up a checkpoint to stop drivers and ask if they have any relevant information about the crime. One of those stopped is clearly driving under the influence of alcohol and is arrested.	Informational checkpoint stops do not violate the Fourth Amendment.
<i>Arizona v. Gant</i> (2009)	Police officers approach a suspect who has an outstanding warrant for driving with a suspended license after the suspect gets out of his car. The officers arrest the man and secure him in the back seat of a patrol car. They search his vehicle and find illegal drugs.	After a suspect has been arrested and secured, police may still search his automobile, but only when it is reasonable to believe that the vehicle contains evidence of the crime for which the arrest was made.