



LEGAL FIRST AID

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SEARCH WARRANT EDITION

“THE POLICE ARE AT THE DOOR WITH A SEARCH WARRANT. WHAT DO I DO?”

1. **DON'T PANIC.**
2. **REMAIN CALM AND POLITE.**
A SEARCH WARRANT GIVES THE POLICE THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO SEARCH THE PREMISES NAMED IN THE WARRANT. IF THEY HAVE THE WRONG HOUSE, THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM, NOT YOURS.
3. **POLITELY DECLINE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.**
AS ALWAYS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. USE IT. YOUR JOB IS NOT TO HELP THE POLICE WITH THEIR SEARCH, BUT TO STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY.
4. **IF THE POLICE FIND ANYTHING BAD, DON'T COMMENT.**
WHAT YOU SAY WILL NOT BE USED IN YOUR FAVOR. IF THERE'S AN INNOCENT EXPLANATION FOR WHAT THE POLICE FIND, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO EXPLAIN.
5. **IF YOU ARE ARRESTED, SEE LEGAL FIRST AID – ARREST EDITION.**
IN BRIEF, AT THIS POINT YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE BEING ARRESTED FOR AND WHERE YOU'RE BEING TAKEN SO THAT YOU CAN PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO WHOEVER WILL BE TRYING TO SECURE YOUR RELEASE.
6. **HIRE A LAWYER.**
YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION. YOU NEED TO CONSULT WITH EXPERIENCED CRIMINAL DEFENSE COUNSEL ABOUT YOUR POSSIBLE EXPOSURE. JUST AS FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT MEDICAL ATTENTION, LEGAL FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT LEGAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION UNTIL YOU CAN GET SUCH ASSISTANCE. THERE MAY BE THINGS THAT A COMPETENT LAWYER CAN DO IMMEDIATELY TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING THE CASE. IT IS BEST TO HIRE COMPETENT COUNSEL WITHIN A DAY OF THE SEARCH.