

IF THE POLICE COME TO YOUR HOME

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. If the police knock and ask to enter your home, except for the situations in the next paragraph, you do not have to admit them unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. If they insist on coming in anyway say clearly that you do not consent to a search, but do not physically interfere.
2. Some emergency situations like when a person is screaming for help inside or when the police are chasing someone permit officers to enter briefly to try to locate the person in trouble or the fleeing criminal.
3. If you are arrested, the police can search you and the area close by. If you are in a building that means any nearby area where a person may be hiding.

REALITY

1. If the police say that they have a search warrant, ask to see it.
2. Check to see that your specific address is listed and note the specific areas of your home listed.
3. If the police insist on coming in without a warrant, try to get their names and badge numbers, and why they want to come in. Otherwise, stay out of the way.
4. If the police have an arrest warrant, make sure the name on the paper is someone in the household, either you, a listed occupant, family member or tenant.