



CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department Policy Manual

TITLE: Search Warrants

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PROCEDURE

Search warrants will be obtained and executed in accordance with law, the rules of this manual and the guidelines of the Crystal Police Department Investigator Training Manual.

All search warrants executed by Crystal Police Officers will be reviewed by the executing officer's supervisor and the Chief of Police prior to execution unless the notification would cause a delay detrimental to the ongoing investigation, in which case a copy will be left for the Chief of Police to review after the fact.

When a Crystal Police Officer learns of another law enforcement agency preparing to execute a search warrant within the City of Crystal, that officer will attempt to obtain a copy of the probable cause statement (application0 and will deliver that copy to the Chief of Police. This should be done prior to the execution of the warrant unless this notification would cause a delay detrimental to the ongoing investigation, in which case a copy will be left for the Chief of Police to review after the fact.

In the absence of the Chief of Police, the above notification will be made to a Police Captain.

GAINING ENTRY

The following entry strategies may be employed:

- Peaceful Entry: Even though the police officers who are executing the search warrant do not use force in obtaining entrance, there is still a need to announce their authority and purpose.
- Forceful Entry: Whenever police officers use force to gain entrance to make a search, they must announce their authority and purpose. The announcement can be brief – “Police Search Warrant”. A reasonable period of time for occupants to respond to the announcement must pass prior to forced entry unless a warrant is obtained that does not require officer to knock and announce.
- Multiple Entry: Once the police officers executing the search warrant have announced their purpose and authority, they may enter the property to be searched at as many points as they desire.

OCCUPANTS

All occupants will be patted for weapons and searched for contraband listed in the warrant. The occupants will be secured as the situation warrants and an officer posted to control their movements. If an occupant has been searched/secured and they are determined not to be involved in the scope of the investigation, they may be released if it will not jeopardize simultaneous warrant executions.

WARRANT RETURN & INVENTORY

In all cases, an inventory receipt will be left at the scene with a copy of the warrant. The lead officer, or affiant, will also leave his or her business card with the case file number.

UTILIZATION OF SWAT

In situations where special or extreme hazards are thought to exist, the SWAT Team may be utilized in the execution of a warrant. Refer to Policy 1.21; West metro SWAT Team.