

FORT FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedure

303 – SEARCH WARRANTS & UNANNOUNCED

SEARCH WARRANT PROCEDURES

Effective Date	July 28, 2026
Legacy SOPs Replaced	SOP 50G – Execution Search Warrants
Review Date	July 28, 2027
Policy Classification	Operational
Authority	Chief of Police
Version	1.0

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures governing the application for, issuance of, service of, and return of warrants in accordance with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Maine, applicable Maine statutes, court rules, judicial orders, and accepted professional law enforcement practices.

This policy is intended to ensure officers obtain appropriate judicial authorization, protect constitutional rights, preserve the integrity of criminal investigations, safeguard the public and law enforcement personnel, and serve warrants in a professional, organized, and legally defensible manner.

This policy also establishes agency procedures governing the service of unannounced search warrants consistent with current Maine law and the minimum standards established by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this agency that all warrants shall be sought, obtained, served, and returned in strict accordance with constitutional principles, applicable statutes, Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, judicial orders, and this policy.

Officers shall exercise sound judgment and professionalism throughout every phase of the warrant process. Applications for warrants shall be based upon truthful, complete, and properly documented probable cause. Warrants shall be served in a manner that reasonably balances legitimate law enforcement objectives with the constitutional rights, dignity, and safety of all involved.

Search warrant operations shall be planned in a manner proportionate to the complexity and risk presented by the investigation. Officers shall employ tactics that are objectively

reasonable under the totality of the circumstances and shall use the least intrusive means reasonably available while maintaining officer safety, preserving evidence, and accomplishing legitimate law enforcement objectives.

Unannounced search warrants shall only be requested or served when authorized by law and supported by specific, articulable facts satisfying applicable statutory and constitutional requirements.

Officers shall comply with all requirements of this policy. Failure to comply with mandatory policy provisions may result in administrative action and, when applicable, action by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees.

III. DEFINITIONS

Affidavit – A sworn written statement presented to a judicial officer establishing probable cause in support of a warrant application.

Arrest Warrant – A judicial order authorizing the arrest of a specifically identified individual.

Dynamic Entry – A rapid tactical entry conducted under circumstances requiring officers to quickly gain control of a location because delay would create an objectively reasonable risk to officer safety, public safety, or the preservation of evidence.

Evidence Technician – The officer designated to receive, inventory, preserve, package, document, and transfer property or evidence seized during service of a search warrant.

Knock-and-Announce – The requirement that officers identify themselves as law enforcement officers, announce their authority and purpose, and provide occupants a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily admit officers before entry unless otherwise authorized by law.

Primary Officer – The officer responsible for the investigation, preparation of the warrant application, operational planning, coordination of personnel, and completion of required documentation.

Probable Cause – Facts and circumstances sufficient to lead a reasonable person to believe that evidence of a crime, contraband, instrumentalities of a crime, or a person subject to arrest will be found in the location described in the warrant.

Protective Sweep – A quick and limited security inspection conducted during service of a warrant to identify individuals who may pose an immediate danger to officers or

others. A protective sweep shall be limited to locations where a person could reasonably be concealed and shall not be used as a pretext for an evidentiary search.

Return of Service – Documentation submitted to the issuing court confirming service or attempted service of a warrant and accounting for property seized pursuant to the warrant.

Search Personnel – Law enforcement officers and other authorized personnel assigned to participate in the planning, service, security, evidence collection, documentation, or post-service responsibilities associated with a search warrant.

Search Site – The premises, vehicle, person, digital device, or other location specifically identified within a search warrant.

Search Warrant – A judicial order authorizing law enforcement officers to search a specified person or place for evidence, contraband, instrumentalities of a crime, or other items specifically identified within the warrant.

Tactical Coordinator – When designated, the supervisor or officer responsible for coordinating tactical planning and operational service during high-risk, dynamic-entry, or unannounced warrant operations.

Unannounced Search Warrant – A search warrant authorizing service without prior announcement of law enforcement authority and purpose before entry, as permitted by Maine law.

IV. LEGAL AUTHORITY

A. Constitutional Authority

The application for, and service of, all warrants shall comply with the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, and all other applicable constitutional protections governing searches and seizures.

B. Statutory Authority

Officers may seek, obtain, serve, and return warrants only as authorized by Maine law, Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, and judicial orders.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to expand statutory authority or diminish constitutional protections.

C. Judicial Authorization

Except where a recognized exception to the warrant requirement exists, officers shall obtain judicial authorization before conducting any search requiring a warrant.

Judicial officers rely upon the truthfulness, completeness, and integrity of information presented by law enforcement. Officers shall ensure affidavits accurately and completely presents the material facts necessary for an independent judicial determination of probable cause.

V. OPERATIONS

A. Warrant Applications

Officers seeking a warrant shall establish probable cause through an affidavit that accurately, truthfully, and completely presents the facts supporting the requested judicial authorization.

Affidavits shall clearly distinguish between firsthand observations and information obtained from other lawful sources. Officers shall identify sources of information when appropriate and shall ensure material facts are not intentionally or recklessly omitted.

Affidavits should be organized in a logical manner that permits the issuing judicial officer to independently evaluate probable cause.

The Primary Officer shall be responsible for preparing the affidavit, coordinating review when required, and obtaining the warrant from a judicial officer authorized to issue the warrant.

Officers shall disclose material information reasonably bearing upon probable cause, including information that may detract from probable cause. Intentional or reckless material omissions or false statements may invalidate a warrant, compromise a criminal prosecution, expose officers and the agency to liability, and result in administrative or criminal sanctions.

B. Supervisory Review

Warrant applications shall be reviewed by a supervisor before seeking judicial authorization. Only the Chief Law Enforcement Officer may authorize an exception to this requirement.

The reviewing supervisor shall ensure:

- Probable cause has been established;
- Material facts are complete, accurate, and internally consistent;
- People, locations, and property are accurately described;
- Constitutional and statutory requirements have been satisfied;
- The application complies with agency policy; and
- Any request for an unannounced search warrant is supported by specific, clearly articulated facts that make the request objectively reasonable.

C. Prosecutorial Review

Warrant applications shall be reviewed by a prosecutor before seeking judicial authorization. Only the Chief Law Enforcement Officer may authorize an exception to this requirement.

When legal questions arise regarding probable cause, warrant scope, electronic evidence, service procedures, or other constitutional issues, officers should consult the appropriate prosecutor.

D. Operational Planning & Risk Assessment

All search warrant operations require the completion of a formal operational plan (**Appendix B**) and agency authorized risk assessment tool (**Appendix C**), both of which shall be approved by a supervisor. Operational planning shall be proportionate to the complexity and anticipated risks associated with the service of the warrant. The assessment should consider all relevant factors, to include officer safety, public safety, known threats, environmental hazards, available resources, and reasonable contingency plans.

Planning considerations should include:

- Verification of the target location;

- Confirmation of addresses and physical descriptions;
- Current intelligence regarding occupants;
- Criminal histories of known suspects;
- Known or suspected access to firearms or other dangerous weapons;
- History of violence, resistance, or escape;
- Presence of children, elderly people, or other vulnerable occupants;
- Building layout, entry and exit points, and structural hazards;
- Hazardous materials, animals, surveillance systems, fortifications, or booby traps;
- Availability of specialized personnel or equipment;
- Communications planning;
- Medical contingency planning;
- Emergency extraction procedures;
- Protection of uninvolved people;
- Evidence preservation;
- Availability and use of body-worn cameras; and
- Deconfliction with agencies having overlapping jurisdiction.

Operational plans shall remain flexible to accommodate changing circumstances while maintaining compliance with constitutional protections and applicable law.

E. Operational Briefing

Prior to serving a warrant the primary officer or operational supervisor shall conduct an operational briefing, which includes all personnel involved in the service of the warrant.

The briefing should include, as applicable:

- Operational objectives and investigation background summary;
- Confirmation of the issuance of a judicially authorized warrant;
- Scope and limitations of the warrant;
- Persons or property identified in the warrant;
- Information concerning the search site;
- Known occupants;
- Known or suspected weapons;
- Assignment of personnel and responsibilities;
- Communications procedures;
- Arrest responsibilities;
- Evidence collection responsibilities;
- Entry procedures;
- Officer identification requirements;
- Body-worn camera expectations;
- EMS / Fire staging location;
- Emergency extraction procedures;
- Protection of uninvolved people;
- Contingency plans; and
- Documentation responsibilities.

When officers from multiple agencies participate, responsibilities, interoperable communication and visible law enforcement identification shall be clearly established in advance.

Personnel assigned to the operation should be afforded the opportunity to clarify assignments and operational responsibilities in advance.

F. Service of Search Warrants

Search warrants shall be served in a lawful, reasonable, and professional manner consistent with constitutional protections, applicable statutes, judicial authorization, and agency policy.

Prior to service, officers shall verify:

- The validity of the warrant;
- The location identified in the warrant;
- The scope and limitations of the warrant;
- Operational assignments;
- Communications procedures; and
- Any material changes affecting officer safety or operational objectives.

Search warrants shall be served within the times prescribed by law and the specific directions of the authorizing judicial officer.

Officers shall limit their actions to the authority granted by the warrant and applicable law.

Officers shall continually evaluate changing circumstances throughout the operation and modify tactics when reasonably necessary to protect life, preserve evidence, maintain officer safety, and accomplish the lawful objectives of the warrant.

G. Officer Identification

Unless legally authorized or operationally necessary to do otherwise, officers executing search warrants shall clearly identify themselves as law enforcement officers.

Uniformed officers should play a prominent and visible role in the service of search warrants whenever possible.

Officers not readily identifiable by uniform shall wear agency authorized clothing or equipment clearly identifying them as law enforcement personnel.

Marked police vehicles should be parked within view of the location(s) to be searched at the time of entry whenever it is practical and safe to do so to confirm for occupants that the activity is an official law enforcement operation.

H. Scope of Search

Officers shall limit the search to those areas reasonably capable of containing the people or property identified within the warrant. Absent additional legal authority, officers shall not intentionally exceed the scope authorized by the warrant.

Property lawfully observed in plain view may be seized when authorized by applicable law.

Officers shall exercise reasonable care in serving the warrant and shall avoid unnecessary disruption or property damage.

I. Knock-and-Announce and Unannounced Search Warrants

Except as otherwise authorized by law, officers serving a search warrant shall comply with constitutional and statutory knock-and-announce requirements.

Officers shall identify themselves as law enforcement officers, announce their authority and purpose, and provide occupants a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily admit officers before making entry.

Except where an expedited entry is legally justified by specific circumstances, officers shall knock, announce their authority and purpose, and allow an objectively reasonable opportunity for occupants to voluntarily admit officers before making a forced entry. The reasonableness of the delay shall be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including officer safety, occupant safety, and destruction of evidence, consistent with applicable law, the terms of the warrant and legally recognized exigent circumstances.

An unannounced search warrant shall not be requested or served unless specifically authorized by law or unless a recognized exception to the knock-and-announce requirement exists.

Requests for judicial authorization shall be supported by specific, articulated facts demonstrating that compliance with the knock-and-announce requirement would create circumstances recognized by law as justification for such authorization.

Before service of an unannounced search warrant, the primary officer shall ensure:

- The warrant expressly authorizes the unannounced entry;
- The affidavit supporting the request was reviewed by a supervisor and prosecutor;
- The operational plan reflects the unique risks associated with the planned entry;
- Participating personnel understand the legal authority governing the operation;
- Specialized personnel or equipment have been requested when appropriate;
- Emergency medical resources have been considered;

A law enforcement officer certified pursuant to 25 M.R.S. § 2804-C shall direct, oversee, and control service of an unannounced search warrant. If available, a supervisor should be present at the service of all unannounced search warrant operations.

Body-worn cameras, if issued by the agency, shall be activated before approach and shall remain activated throughout service of the warrant.

J. Specialized Equipment and Dynamic Entry

Diversionsary devices, distraction devices, breaching tools, or other specialized equipment shall be used only when lawful, objectively reasonable, consistent with agency policy, and deployed by officers trained in their use.

The decision to employ specialized equipment shall be based upon an objective evaluation of relevant factors, to include:

- The seriousness of the offense;
- The known or reasonably suspected threat presented;
- The presence of children or other vulnerable people;
- The physical characteristics of the location;
- Available tactical alternatives; and
- The objective of safely executing the warrant while minimizing unnecessary risk to officers, occupants, and the public.

Dynamic entry shall be used only when lawful and objectively reasonable under the circumstances. The justification for a planned dynamic entry shall be documented and shall be approved by the Chief Law Enforcement Officer or command level designee.

K. Entry, Protective Sweep, and Scene Security

Following entry, officers shall promptly secure the location, conduct a protective sweep as allowed by law, and maintain control of the scene until the search has been completed.

Protective sweeps shall be limited to areas where a person could reasonably be concealed.

Occupants should receive a copy of the search warrant as soon as it is safe and practical after the premises have been secured, unless otherwise authorized by law.

Any deviation from the planned method of entry shall be thoroughly documented.

Documentation should include:

- Facts known to officers at the time;
- Legal authority supporting the decision;
- Supervisory involvement;
- Injuries or property damage;
- Use of specialized equipment; and
- Significant operational issues encountered.

L. Seizure of Property

Officers shall seize only those items authorized by the warrant or otherwise subject to lawful seizure.

One officer shall be assigned as an evidence technician with their only role being to take possession of, package, label and document the details of every item seized, to include:

- the specific location where the item was located;
- the officer who found the item;

- the basic condition of the item and any identifying information such as a model and/or serial number;
- photographing the item as it was received;
- if the seizing officer photographed the item in its original location; and
- any unusual details about the item, such as *“the firearm magazine was loaded with a round in the chamber”*

In the case of firearms, they will be made safe, cleared of any ammunition, and this process will be documented. Guns and ammunition will be packaged separately.

All seized currency will be photographed and/or video recorded before being counted by two officers at the same time. The currency shall be counted repeatedly until both officers agree on the total, the total shall be documented on the sealed evidence packaging and both officers shall sign the documented seal and total on the package.

Seized property shall be handled in accordance with agency evidence procedures to preserve evidentiary integrity and maintain an unbroken chain of custody.

Whenever practical, photographs and/or video recordings should document the condition of the premises before and after service of the warrant. Photographs shall be taken of evidence seized, unusual conditions, and property damage.

An itemized inventory of seized property shall be prepared as required and provided to a resident, occupant, or other appropriate person. In the absence of such a person, the inventory shall be left in a conspicuous location at the search site unless the warrant specifically authorizes otherwise.

M. Post-Service Procedures

Following completion of the search, officers shall conduct a systematic review of the search site to ensure all authorized activities have been completed, evidence has been properly secured, all agency equipment is accounted for, and the premises have been left in a reasonably safe condition.

Reasonable steps shall be taken to secure the premises prior to leaving when entry or service activities have compromised the physical security of the property.

Officers shall document any property damage resulting from service of the warrant.

The primary officer or supervisor should conduct a post-operation debriefing following search warrant operations to identify operational issues, officer safety concerns, equipment needs, training opportunities, or recommendations for future operations.

The primary officer shall ensure all required reports, inventories, returns, and related documentation are completed accurately and submitted within the time prescribed by law.

N. Supervisory Responsibilities

Supervisors shall ensure warrant operations are conducted in accordance with constitutional requirements, applicable statutes, judicial orders, agency policy, and accepted professional law enforcement practices.

Supervisors shall provide oversight appropriate to the complexity and anticipated risk of the operation and ensure operational planning adequately addresses foreseeable legal, tactical, and officer and public safety considerations.

Supervisors reviewing warrant affidavits shall ensure probable cause has been established, required documentation is complete, and requests for unannounced search warrants are supported by specific, articulated facts consistent with applicable law.

For operations involving elevated risk, multiple agencies, specialized resources, dynamic entry, or unannounced search warrants, supervisors should maintain appropriate operational oversight throughout the service of the warrant whenever possible.

Following search warrant operations, supervisors should conduct or direct an administrative review to identify policy compliance issues, operational concerns, equipment considerations, supervisory issues, training needs, or opportunities for continuous improvement.

O. Training

Sworn personnel responsible for preparing, reviewing, supervising, or serving search warrants shall receive training appropriate to their assigned duties.

Training should include:

- Constitutional requirements governing searches and seizures;
- Probable cause development and affidavit preparation;
- Search warrant application procedures;

- Search warrant service;
- Knock-and-announce requirements;
- Unannounced search warrant procedures;
- High-risk warrant operations;
- Officer safety and tactical considerations;
- Evidence preservation and documentation;
- Body-worn camera considerations during warrant service;
- Applicable statutory amendments; and
- Significant judicial decisions affecting warrant procedures.

Agency leadership shall periodically review training to ensure consistency with current law, accepted professional practices, and agency policy.

P. Documentation and Reporting

Officers shall prepare reports documenting warrant-related activities in accordance with agency policy.

Documentation shall include, as applicable:

- The legal authority supporting the warrant, copy of the affidavit and warrant;
- Identification of all officers involved and their employing agency;
- All actions taken during service of the warrant;
- The time, method and officers directly involved in the entry;
- The basis for any unannounced entry or other significant tactical decision;
- Use of specialized equipment or tactics;
- Activation or non-activation of body-worn cameras, when applicable;
- Scope of protective sweep conducted;

- Detailed description and/or diagram of the premises;
- People present;
- Assignments of all officers involved;
- Property seized, by whom and location found;
- People detained or arrested;
- Injuries sustained by anyone;
- Significant property damage;
- Evidence collection and inventory information;
- Time the search was completed and the property released;
- Return of service documentation.

Reports shall be sufficiently detailed to support judicial review, criminal prosecution, administrative review, and future operational evaluation.

APPENDIX A

BOT, MLEAP & STATUTORY CROSSWALK

Purpose, Policy and Statutory Authority

Authority

25 M.R.S. § 2803-B – Mandatory Law Enforcement Policies

BOT 14-1 – Search Warrant Policy

BOT 14-2 – Constitutional Requirements

Addressed in: Sections I, II, IV

Definitions

Authority

BOT 14-1 – Required Definitions

Addressed in: Section III

Search Warrant Applications

Authority

Fourth Amendment – U.S. Constitution

Article I, Section 5 – Constitution of Maine

BOT 14-3 – Warrant Applications

MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants

Addressed in: Sections IV.C, V.A, V.B, V.C

Operational Planning

Authority

BOT 14-4 – Operational Planning

MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants

Addressed in: Sections V.D, V.E

Service of Search Warrants

Authority

BOT 14-5 – Service of Search Warrants

MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants

Addressed in: Sections V.F, V.G, V.H

Knock-and-Announce / Unannounced Search Warrants

Authority

25 M.R.S. § 2803-B(1)(N)

BOT 14-6 – Knock-and-Announce Requirements

BOT 14-7 – Judicial Authorization for Unannounced Search Warrants

BOT 14-8 – Certified Officer Supervision

MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants

Addressed in: Section V.I

Specialized Equipment and Dynamic Entry

Authority

BOT 14-9 – Specialized Equipment

MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants

Addressed in: Section V.J

Protective Sweeps and Scene Security

Authority

BOT 14-10 – Protective Sweeps and Scene Security
MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants
Addressed in: Section V.K

Seizure and Inventory of Property

Authority
BOT 14-11 – Seizure of Property
MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants
Addressed in: Sections V.L, V.M

Supervisory Responsibilities

Authority
BOT 14-12 – Supervisory Responsibilities
MLEAP 1.04 – First-Line Supervision
Addressed in: Section V.N

Training

Authority
BOT 14-13 – Training
MLEAP 3.06 – In-Service Sworn Officer Training
Addressed in: Section V.O

Documentation and Reporting

Authority
BOT 14-14 – Documentation and Return of Service
MLEAP 5.01 – Records Management
MLEAP 4.05 – Search Warrants
Addressed in: Section V.P

APPENDIX B

SEARCH WARRANT OPERATIONAL PLAN

SEARCH WARRANT OPERATIONAL PLAN

Associated Policy: SOP 303 – Search Warrants & Unannounced Search Warrants
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I. OPERATION INFORMATION

Incident Number	
Case Officer	
Date	
Briefing Time / Location	
Search Location(s)	
Briefing Official	

II. WARRANT INFORMATION

Type of Warrant

- ☐ Knock & Announce - ☐ Officer Designated to Announce
- ☐ No Knock / Unannounced Entry – ☐ Justification Explained
- ☐ Anticipatory - ☐ Trigger(s) Explained & Go/No-Go Authority Assigned

***Risk Assessment Result:** _____ *** Tool Attached** ☐

Type of Search

- ☐ Residence ☐ Business ☐ Vehicle ☐ Person
- ☐ Electronic Device ☐ Other _____

Description of Location(s) to be Searched

Offense(s) Under Investigation

Specific Property / Person Described in the Warrant (Scope of Search Determination):

III. PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

Function	Assigned
Incident Supervisor	

Function	Assigned
Case Officer	
Entry / Contact Team(s)	
Arrest / Processing Team	
Search Team(s)	
Evidence Technician	
Photographer	
Perimeter / Security	
Interview Team	

Communications Plan

Primary Channel _____

Alternate Channel _____

Designated Dispatch Center or Incident Specific TOC

IV. OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Known Residents / Occupants

Known or Suspected Weapons

Officer Safety Concerns

Children / Vulnerable People Present (* Plan for post warrant care if needed)

Animals (* Plan for post warrant care if needed)

Special Hazards (cameras, reinforced doors, slip, trip, fall hazards, etc.)

Weather/Environmental Considerations

V. PLAN FOR WARRANT SERVICE

Staging Area

Primary Entry / Contact Point

Secondary or Alternate Entry / Contact Point

Detailed Description of Entry / Contact Plan: (subject to dynamic modification as actual circumstances change):

The Entry / Contact team will approach

Perimeter / Security team will post....

Arrest team will...

Containment Plan

Medical Contingency / EMS Staging

VI. PREMISES SEARCH PLAN

Once secured and the security sweep has been confirmed and hazards identified, designated personnel will carry out a video recording of the exterior and interior of all areas being searched prior to commencement of the search.

Search team members will be assigned specific areas for primary search responsibility and will be given overlapping assignments to cross check areas searched by other team members so that every area is covered by more than one member.

All evidence located, which is legally subject to seizure pursuant to the warrant or other legal doctrine, will be photographed in place prior to collection and delivery to the designated evidence technician. Drug evidence, money and items of excessive value will be photographed, left in place, inspected, counted and seized by two officers.

The evidence technician will take possession of all seized evidence, documenting the description of the item, general condition, identity of the officer who located the item, the location reportedly found and any unusual circumstances. The evidence technician will package and label all items appropriately. At the completion of the search, the evidence technician will cross check the inventory with the packaged evidence to confirm consistency and that all listed items are present for removal. **All evidence management procedures, as outlined in SOP 502, will be followed.**

The interview team will...

At the completion of the search, the supervisor or case officer will join a member of the search team to sweep all areas to confirm no obvious evidence remains, no police equipment remains, inspect for damage caused by the service of the warrant, carry out or direct the video recording of the premise, and secure the premises to the extent possible prior to departure.

Digital Evidence Expected

☐ Yes ☐ No - if yes, follow standard digital evidence preservation procedures.

Other Special Collection Considerations

VII. CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Officer Injury / Extraction

Barricaded Subject

Fire / Explosion / HazMat

Unexpected Occupants

Other

VIII. PRE-EXECUTION BRIEFING

The Incident Supervisor verified that **all** participating personnel were briefed regarding:

- ☐ **Risk assessment**
- ☐ **Safety**
- ☐ **Legal scope and limitations of the warrant reviewed**
- ☐ **Investigative objectives**
- ☐ **Officer assignments**
- ☐ **Communications**
- ☐ **Evidence responsibilities**

☐ Contingency plans

☐ Questions answered

IX. APPROVALS

Prepared By: (Print) _____ (Sign)

Approved By: (Print) _____ (Sign)

Date: _____ Time: _____

APPENDIX C

SEARCH WARRANT RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

WARRANT SERVICE RISK ASSESSMENT

(Based on Assessment Compiled and Validated by the FBI)

Risk assessment is based on facts and circumstances stated in the affidavit for the warrant, criminal history on suspects and targeted location, the details learned during the target scout, and intelligence gained from information gathered during the investigation.

Place an "√" in the relevant blocks and then place the relevant points in the "Score" column and total the points.

Score:

1-15 Points **Service of warrant can be handled by unit supervisor**

16-25 Points **Consultation with Tactical Team Supervisor or designee required**

26+ Points **Tactical Team to handle warrant service**

Elements	Points	√	Score
Search warrant is for evidence of property crimes only.	1		
Search warrant is for evidence of drug violations.	2		
Search warrant is for evidence of misdemeanor crimes against persons.	2		
Search warrant is for drug violations suspect(s).	4		
Search warrant is for suspect of felony crimes of violence.	5		
Arrest warrant is for crimes of violence.	5		
Arrest warrant is for property crimes.	1		
Execution requires no forcible entry.	1		
Execution requires use of breaching tools.	8		
Target location has dog(s) for protection.	3		

Target location is heavily fortified and/or booby trapped.	15		
Suspect(s) have history of only property crimes.	1		
Suspect(s) have drug history.	1		
Suspect(s) have history of misdemeanor crimes against persons.	2		
Suspect(s) have history of drug trafficking.	3		
Suspect(s) have made statements indicative of resistance to service.	4		
Suspect(s) have history of felony crimes of violence.	5		
Suspect(s) have history of crimes of violence against police officers.	5		
Suspect(s) have used firearms in the commission of crimes.	8		
Firearms are present at the target location.	3		
Suspect(s) known to carry or display firearms.	5		
Suspect(s) known to carry or display automatic firearms.	15		
Warrant is "knock and announce."	1		
Warrant is "no knock."	3		
TOTAL			

Investigating Officer: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor: _____