

Resources

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Tim: Alright, now come again and tell me exactly how an agent complies with “knock and announce.”

Jenna: OK, it’s not terribly difficult. First, there’s the knock part, which can be as simple as just knocking on the door. All the agent really has to do is to announce their presence somehow. It could be by yelling out through a bullhorn or even making a telephone call to the people inside. Agent must simply make their presence known. So they knock, and say “POLICE! SEARCH WARRANT! OPEN THE DOOR!” They have identified themselves, announced their authority and purposed, and demanded entry. Then the agents have to wait until they are denied entry before they can use force to get inside.

Tim: Why have all these rules?

Jenna: Well, first that rule promotes officer safety. I mean officers might get shot if they just breaking into someone’s house without announcing themselves. A lot of people especially over here in southern Georgia - a lot of homeowners are also gun owners. So they might take action against someone they think in engaged in housebreaking. Second it can prevent needless destruction of property. There really is no need for us to smash down someone’s door or take it off the hinges if the person inside is willing to just come to the door and open it. And, finally it helps preserve the dignity of the people in the residence. If someone is in there taking a nap in his boxer shorts, knocking and announcing and waiting a few moments gives that person inside a chance to put some clothes on before he comes to the door.

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Source: [“Execution of a Search Warrant,”](#) Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers