

If the Police Knock on Your Door:

1) *Make Sure All Your Private Items Are Out of View*

Authorities don't need a search warrant in order to confiscate any illegal items in plain view.

2) *Refuse the Police Officer Entry Without a Warrant.*

Greet the officer, then exit the house and close the door. Without a warrant or an emergency situation, officers cannot enter your home without your permission.

3) *Be Courteous and Non-Confrontational*

Once outside, ask the officer how you can help them. You have nothing to gain -- and everything to lose -- by allowing hostilities to emerge, even if the officer started it.

4) *Determine the Reason of the Visit*

Most times, an officer may only want you to turn down any loud music or put a barking dog inside. If the officer implies that s/he wants to enter your house, you have legally become a criminal suspect and should be prepared to exercise your constitutional rights.

5) *Say NO to Warrantless Searches*

It is legal to deny any officer's entrance in to your house. If you give an officer your consent to enter, you waive all [Fourth Amendment](#) rights and protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

How to handle an obtrusive officer: "I know you want to do your job, but I do not consent to any searches of my private property." If s/he finds any illegal contraband, your attorney can argue that seized property was confiscated illegally and should be thrown out of court.

6) *DO NOT Answer Any Questions Without an Attorney*

Assert [Fifth and Sixth Amendment](#) rights by saying "I have nothing to say until I speak with my lawyer." Should you choose to answer any of the officer's questions, always be honest. Authorities are easily hostile if they feel disrespected. Understand that if you're not prepared to be polite, then say nothing at all.

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