

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL ORDER



BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE ISSUED: November 24, 2020	DATE EFFECTIVE: November 30, 2020	NUMBER: SO20-026	PAGE: 1 of 2
TO: Distribution "A"			RETENTION DATE: Until Rescinded
SUBJECT: <b>Manual Revision –<u>9-307 Unannounced Entry Search Warrants</u></b>			APPROVED BY: <i>Chief Arradondo</i>

MP-8806

**Introduction:** This policy is being added to incorporate the MPD’s entry process for search warrants into the policy manual.

Effective with the issuance of this Special Order, Section 9-307 of the MPD Policy and Procedure Manual shall be amended as follows:

**9-307 UNANNOUNCED ENTRY SEARCH WARRANTS**  
**(11/30/20)**

- A.** In addition to the requirements of the other policies in this chapter related to warrants, officers submitting a warrant application and Search Warrant and Risk Assessment form (MP-6946) shall indicate whether the warrant is requested to be an “entry with announcement” warrant (also called “knock and announce”) or is requested to permit “unannounced entry” (immediate entry), sometimes referred to as “no-knock” entry.
  - 1.** With “entry with announcement” search warrants, officers executing the search warrant generally must not immediately force their way into the premises. Instead, the officers must first knock, identify themselves as “Police” and announce their intent, and wait a reasonable amount of time for the occupants to allow entry into the premises.
  - 2.** High-risk warrants (P&P 9-302 and P&P 9-303) may involve immediate entry or “unannounced entry.” Unannounced entry search warrants authorize officers to enter the specified premises without first knocking and announcing their presence or purpose prior to entering. The judge issuing the warrant indicates whether the warrant permits that type of entry, based on the case details.
    - a.** The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team generally handles and executes such warrants, based on the identified risks noted on the Search Warrant and Risk Assessment form (MP-6946). If the search warrant is determined to be high risk based upon the Search Warrant and Risk Assessment form, the SWAT Warrant Team Sergeant shall be consulted.

- b. During unannounced entry search warrants, MPD officers shall announce themselves as “Police” and announce their purpose as “Search Warrant” prior to crossing the threshold of the door into the residence or building.
  - c. Announcements shall also be given periodically throughout the search and at least one time when the officer has moved to an area where the previous announcement may not have been heard. These announcements should include the officer’s authority and what the officer wants the subject to do. Arrests, searches and use of force engagements shall follow the applicable policies (P&P 9-100, P&P 9-200 and P&P 5-300).
  - d. Officers should be mindful of any known or reasonably believed barriers or obstacles to cooperation such as perception barriers, mental or emotional capacity, physical and language barriers, including whether the individual is known or believed to be deaf or hard of hearing.
- B. In exceptional circumstances when giving announcements would create an imminent threat of physical harm to victims, officers or the public, the supervisor may authorize officers to execute an immediate entry without making an announcement. For those circumstances when announcements are not made for any part of a warrant execution, the supervisor involved shall include the facts supporting the decision in their incident report.**
- C. This policy applies to any search warrant entry made by MPD officers, including when working with other agencies.**