



Search Warrants for Meth Labs

Author : Jeff Welty

Categories : [Procedure](#), [Search and Seizure](#), [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged as : [bad faith](#), [destruction of evidence](#), [discovery](#), [meth](#), [meth labs](#), [search warrants](#), [youngblood](#)

Date : February 6, 2014

I've had several questions lately concerning search warrants for meth labs. The basic issue is whether officers who find hazardous chemicals and other dangerous items may destroy them right away, before the defendant has a chance to examine and test them. Related questions include whether a judge has the power to authorize such destruction when issuing a search warrant; what steps officers should take to photograph or otherwise document items that they plan to destroy; and how courts should analyze arguments by the defense that the destroyed items had exculpatory potential.

All these questions turn out to be complicated and interesting, and the resulting analysis became too long for a blog post. I turned it into a short paper in PDF format. The paper is available [here](#). As always, I welcome comments and feedback of all kinds.