

SEARCH WARRANT TASK FORCE



Search Warrant Task Force
Securing Committee
November 15, 2021

- I. Securing Committee convened. Members present: Denise Bentley, Ramon McGee, David Nicholson, Nicolai Jilek, Charles Cunningham (virtual), and Jeff Gregory (virtual).
- II. The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. McGee – motion passed unanimously.
- III. Discussion
 - a. Mr. Cunningham began the discussion by proposing three categories for the Committee’s recommendations. The first category would be mandatory recommendations, or recommendations that may require legislation from the General Assembly. The second category would best practices recommendations – establishing practices that all jurisdictions can implement. The third category would be aspirational recommendations, or long-term goals pertaining to the search warrant process.
 - b. Regarding the Committee’s mandatory categories, Mr. Cunningham recommended having a secure, compulsory, digital platform for processing search warrants. Mr. Jilek suggested the Committee allow for physical records as a backup if electrical/digital platforms fail. The Committee agreed to recommend a mandatory digital platform with provisions for physical records as backup when needed.
 - c. Considering the best practices recommendations, Mr. Nicholson suggested having photographic before/after evidence. Mr. Jilek recommended presenting defendants with document(s) informing them about their rights when a search warrant is executed. Mr. McGee also suggested having a threat assessment as a best practice before a search warrant is performed.
 - d. Regarding aspirational recommendations, Mr. Cunningham suggested having an ongoing review body to assess search warrant processes. Mr. Cunningham also maintained that there should be better educational mechanisms in place to inform citizens about search warrants. Ms. Bentley advised this could be done through PSAs, social media, radio, etc.
- IV. Adjournment



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- a. A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Gregory seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously. The Securing Committee adjourned.