

Emergency Plan

Your checklist in case of emergency

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In case of the investigation service's appearance to conduct a search of homes or premises:

1. **Call your defending lawyer** (SOS emergency hotline Matthias Wolf, expert for law relating to fiscal and economic offences: (+49) 172- 614 2352). Should the officer in charge refuse permission to do so-suspecting that other persons involved might be warned- ask the officer in charge to make the call.
2. **Stay calm and be polite**, avoid becoming talkative out of nervousness; try to react composedly towards the harsh tone of some searchers.
3. **Write down the name of the officer in charge** and the other clerks, ask for business cards.
4. **Ask them to deliver the search warrant** and read it thoroughly in order to see what exactly the reason for the search is. In case they cannot provide a judicial decision, but only an order of the public prosecution department, the order must contain proof that the search is being conducted on the basis of exigent circumstances.
5. **Do not say a word without your lawyer**. No matter whether you are employee, manager, defendant or witness: A search is not the place to make any statements. Also be careful when it comes to “informational interviews”, conducted through the searchers in a relaxed atmosphere of trust when having a coffee or a cigarette.
6. **Do not offer resistance**, however unjustified the search may seem. The investigators are only carrying out their duty. Whether the suspicion is justified or not, will be clarified at a later time.
7. **The file shredder is a taboo**. Also refrain from deleting data. With those actions, as a defendant, you are offering a reason for arrest on the basis of suppression of evidence; you are at risk of immediate incarceration. Even if you are not the defendant, you are liable to prosecution by performing those actions.
8. **Let the investigators confiscate the documents** and do not hand them in voluntarily if your defender has not advised you otherwise. Confiscated items must be documented.
9. **Try to obtain the permission to copy documents and data** in order to be able to continue with the daily business operations.