

CJ350: Criminal Justice Documentation
Search Warrant Lab
Facts

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5 On August 1, 2007, Marie CASTRO – a maid at the Cityview Motel [876 Water Street, Barnett City (County
6 of Franklin), BA 33651] – discovered what she suspected were two “rocks” of crack cocaine lodged in the inside air
7 conditioner vents of Room Number 8 of the motel. CASTRO was in the process of cleaning the room at the time.
8 CASTRO left the suspected cocaine where it was and called the Barnett City Police Department (BCPD). After
9 being connected to a Spanish speaking officer (CASTRO is a recent immigrant from Costa Rica and speaks very
10 little English) she informed the officer about the suspected crack. The officer then contacted the duty detective
11 (You) by radio and relayed the information. You arrived at the motel at 1105. When you arrived at the motel, there
12 were no cars in the parking lot, and the doors to Room 8 and the adjacent rooms were open as if they were being
13 cleaned. From outside Room 8, ABLEMAN could see no luggage or other personal items. You concluded that
14 Room 8 was vacant.

15 CASTRO then appeared. You do not speak Spanish but the two of you were able (using simple English
16 phrases and hand signs) to communicate sufficiently for CASTRO to assure herself that you were a police officer
17 and for you to assure yourself that CASTRO was the maid who had phoned in the tip. You then followed CASTRO
18 inside the room, and she showed you what she believed to be the rocks of crack cocaine hidden in the room's air
19 conditioner. You could not see the rocks until after he had entered the room. After seizing the rocks (which were
20 contained in a small plastic bag), you went to the front desk to find out who had last stayed in the room. You then
21 discovered that the room was still registered to a Martin BAKER. (Prior to that moment it was your assumption that
22 the room was unoccupied). You then gave your business card to the desk clerk and asked to be called if the clerk
23 observed that BAKER had returned.

24 You then returned to the Investigation Division Headquarters and submitted the suspected cocaine to the
25 crime scene unit for a rush field analysis. You also checked the state criminal databases for a Martin Baker. You
26 found a THOMAS MARTINIQUE BAKER (DOB: 2 Feb 1986) who had (according to the database) been convicted
27 of possession of marijuana (Franklin County General District Court), in September 2005.

28 At 1530 a certificate of analysis was given to you by Sgt. YOUNGBLOOD of the crime scene unit. The
29 rocks had tested positive as crack cocaine.

30 You now seek a search warrant for Room 8.