

Sample request and order for off-site computer search:

Request for Off-Site Search Authorization: For the following reasons, I request authorization to remove the listed computers and computer-related equipment on the premises and search them at a secure location:

- (1) The amount of data that may be stored in hard drives and removable storage devices is enormous, and I do not know the number or size of the hard drives and removable storage devices that will have to be searched pursuant to this warrant.
- (2) The data to be seized may be located anywhere on the hard drives and removable storage devices, including hidden files, program files, and “deleted” files that have not been overwritten.
- (3) The data may have been encrypted, it may be inaccessible without a password, and it may be protected by self-destruct programming, all of which will take time to detect and bypass.
- (4) Because data stored on a computer can be easily destroyed or altered, either intentionally or accidentally, the search must be conducted carefully and in a secure environment.
- (5) To prevent alteration of data and insure the integrity of the search, I plan to make clones of all drives and devices, then search the clones; this, too, will take time and special equipment.
- (6) Finally, a lengthy on-site search may pose a severe hardship on all people who [live][work] on the premises, as it would require the presence of law enforcement officers to secure the premises while the search is being conducted.

Order Authorizing Off-Site Search: Good cause having been established in the affidavit filed herein, the officers who execute this warrant are authorized to remove the computers and computer-related equipment listed in this warrant and search them at a secure location.