

Through the window

P, T, V en W are sitting in a house. The house has been squatted for two days. The police are here. They got a notification of people climbing into the window. The squatters show the police some proof that they didn't break into the house, but are already there for a long time. The police read: "We are living in this house..."

Cop: It says "we", so that means all of you?

P: Yes.

" No, no." the others correct her immediately

P: We live here with the two of us.

Cop: With the two of you. Can I see both of your ID's?

T: Yes.

*P gets up to get her ID-card. *

V: You don't have to show that because you are in your own house.

P: Oh?

W (tense, with a loud voice): I am a visitor here.

Cop: Yes, I understand.

P: I don't have to?

V: No, because you are in your own house.

P: Yes. Well. Can we call our lawyer in case we got some more questions because we don't have to show our ID's anyway if we are in our own house?

Cop: No, you need to show your ID.

P: Really?

P&T: Why?

Cop: Because of the law about identification, we have to do with you right now, as an inhabitant or squatter, as a witness at an incident, it doesn't matter how, because of a police task and I want to know who I have to do with.

T: But we live here.

Cop: Yes so, I want your information as an inhabitant.

P: Can I call my lawyer about that?

Cop 2: You are simply obligated to show your ID if the police ask for it, from fourteen years onwards, when our task allows that. And as you can see, we are busy finding out what the situation here is like, so we simply need you to show it.

W: But they do have the right to call their lawyers about showing the ID, right?

Cop: Yes, that is possible but then we also got a reason to arrest you and err...

W: But we won't leave, we'll just be here.

Cop: What?

T: If we call our lawyer, we will just show it afterwards.

W: Yes.

Cop: Well, that's possible but it only costs time. T: Okay but...

W: Yes...

P calls the lawyer

P: Hello, it's P, about the house peace, we are at the moment talking to police at the door and they're asking us to show our ID's, but we won't have to show this when we are simply hanging out at our house, right? (...) Okay. (...) Okay. (...) Yes. (...) Yes. Okay. Thank you.

P (talking to Cop 2): What is the crime you are suspecting us of that causes you to ask our ID's?

Cop 2: What the crime is?

P: Yes.

Cop 2: We got a notification that people are climbing into a window of an empty house. According to our system there's nobody registered in this house. So, this could mean there's burglary for example.

P: Okay. But this is not the case. We got the right to live here and we can also open the front door, but this is easier and more fun.

Cop 2: Why don't you enter through the front door?

P: Because this is easier and more fun.

T giggles

T: We enter through the front door more often but this is more fun and more nice.

Cop 2: But how did you get the keys of this house?

P: The door was open when we entered and now, we've got our own key.

T: And now we got our own- yes, we live here.

P: And we've got proof as well, to show that we live here. We've got a twitter account that shows the dates since we came here. We've been here since the 21th of September but established house-peace since last Wednesday. We've got photos as proof.

Cop 2: Okay. Yes, we get a notification and then we come to that. The people who are involved in such a notification, you guys, have to, according to article 7 of the police law, be asked for their ID cards and we have to put this into our system. This can be put through to the community officer and for that we need some personal data. And you guys should obey to these rules. Because otherwise you are committing a crime. And this is not obeying a demand. And then you can even be arrested.

T: What happens exactly when we show our ID's?

Cop: Well, I have to demand your ID, which I already asked a couple of times. And if you don't obey, you don't suffice to the order of a municipality worker.

V: It doesn't matter anyway if you wanna register and shit.

P (towards the cop): Yes.

V: Just show it.

Cop 2: But why do you not want to show your ID's? Because this is very normal.

P: We only want to do this when we know for sure it's necessary, so thank you for the explanation. Because I do understand it's suspicious when we climb through the window.

Cop 2: Yes, this can look very suspicious to people.

T&P give their ID; the cop looks at the ID-cards

Cop 2: thank you. I will check the outcome of the phone call of my colleague. This will take a while.

Cop: Yes, I will be called back in a sec. We could sit in the car and wait over there.

Cop 2 (talking to P): When we knock the door, will you guys open?

P: Err, yes, we can open yes.

Cop 2: Yes? Great we'll come back to you in a sec.

P: Okay.

Cop 2: Okay thank you.

V: What did the lawyer say?

P: He said that as long as we are suspects of a crime, we are obligated to show our identification and we are suspected of breaking and entering.

T: But what does that mean?

V: This is good. Probably the cop called his chef or something. They'll hear from their chef that the public prosecutor will have to give orders to evict, like it says in the law. But it's also possible that the chef doesn't know this and has to make phone calls higher up and stuff... But it's good they're calling and not doing stuff by themselves, haha!

T: But I don't think they can- I heard that we don't have to show our ID's and I don't understand why they tell us we do have to do that now.

P: Because we are suspects, but we can prove we didn't commit the crime.

V: I think it's a bit vague but I don't know the exact law about showing the ID either- not like - like you don't have to show your ID when you are in your own home -I don't know the exact law by heart so I'm like, let's just show it -so the situation doesn't escalate.

P: I don't think we were obligated to show it.

T: But you are obligated to have your ID with you at all times.

W (confused): I think you're allowed to refuse to give it the first time and the second time...

P: Actually, we shouldn't have done it. They were just threatening us with arrest to scare us.

V: I wouldn't open the door and just talk to them through the window.

P: But we just said we will open the door.

V: Why?

W: Because they think that's more official or something.

P: Because we can prove with that that we can open the front door and don't climb through the window all the time. We don't have to let them in... we only have to do that if they got an order to search the house.

V: Since you've shown your ID already you can also simply go outside and put the key in the lock to show-

P: Yes. I'll de-barricade the door so that it's not scary for them.

W: Hahaha that's so funny.

T: I'm sorry I said you guys live here.

W: Nooo it's okay.

V: I understand.

W: It's always scary.

V: And at the moment you are in a squat you are just as guilty as the squatters, so...

P: Would you guys like to leave?

V: No.

W: I don't know, maybe, I err... don't want to be ID- checked or anything like that.

T: You can leave through the back.

W: Yes, I'll go because...

T: It's better if you don't go through the back tho because we have no way to exit from there.

P: Maybe the fence at the back is open?

W: I cannot afford to get caught because my work also got to do with housing-

P: Maybe we can let you out through the front door because it's less shady that you leave then.

W: That's okay.

V: But maybe they'll go after her and then it becomes a drama, that's not okay either. Hey- I really don't want you to do that. I don't want you to leave through the front door, maybe they'll stop you and it becomes more of a drama you know what I mean. I think it's better if you just-

P: But if she just says she needs to be somewhere...

V: I think it's a good idea to give the police no reason to be more suspicious of us than they already are.

W: I'll go through the back.

P: Oh, here they come again, I think.

Cop 2: We talked about it and we are going to notify the neighborhood cop. And err, furthermore, I think this is going to be it.

T: Okay, that's nice.

Cop: Do you girls happen to have the contact data of the owner with you?

T: Yes, we've got the letter we sent to her right here.

Cop: I mean her address.

P: The address is streetnamestreet 123.

Cop 2: Give me a sec. Let me write that down.

Cop: What's the name of the street?

P: Streetnamestreet.

Cop: Thank you!

the cops walk away.

P: I almost said have a nice day, but they don't deserve that.

everyone laughs relieved