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## Dauphin County woman sues officers for kicking her door in without a warrant: Lawsuit

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A Penbrook woman who answered her door wearing only a bath towel is suing the township's police department for kicking in her door and injuring her—all without a signed warrant from a judge, according to the lawsuit.

Jasmine Malseed, now 21, had just woken up around noon Aug. 10, 2021 when three police officers arrived at her home on the 2700 block of Boas Street in response to a call of domestic violence.

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Malseed, who was alone, answered the door, declined to exit her home and began to shut the door. However, Isaac Tritt, a Penbrook Borough police officer, kicked the door in, sending Malseed flying back, according to the lawsuit.

The impact of the door knocked Malseed back and tore a gash on her forehead which bled profusely, the lawsuit said.

Tritt, joined by Ryan Lindsley and Aaron Osman, both Susquehanna Township Police Officers, entered the home and searched it for around 15 minutes while Malseed lay on the floor, naked and bleeding. For several seconds, Tritt held the towel Malseed had been wearing over her forehead.

Tritt eventually asked where Malseed's mother was, explaining police were dispatched because someone heard fighting and screaming inside the home. When Malseed did not respond, they left the home without making any sort of arrest.

A surveillance camera inside the home recorded the entire ordeal, according to the lawsuit, which was accompanied by several images that blurred over Malseed's body.

The lawsuit accuses the three officers of violating Malseed's fourth amendment rights against warrantless search and seizure, and argued there was no evidence of circumstances that could grant an exception to rules against warrantless searches.

On a broader scale, the lawsuit accuses Penbrook Borough Police Department's policies of violating the Fourth Amendment. According to the lawsuit, Penbrook policy permits and encourages searches of homes without warrants based on potential domestic violence incidents because it is common for domestic abuse victims to refuse entry to police in domestic violence situations.

"Malseed was an unarmed, naked teenager who was outnumbered by officers by a margin of three to one. Officer Tritt had no reason to believe she posed a threat to him or others," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit also accused Lindlsey and Osman of failing to stop the entry and search of the home.

The Susquehanna Township police officers assisted Penbrook Borough police officers because the latter was understaffed.

Federal authorities charged Tritt in 2007 with impersonating a federal officer for telling a school principal he was a CIA agent and presenting a false search warrant.

Tritt completed a pretrial diversionary program to avoid a conviction in the matter before he was hired by Penbrook Borough in 2019.

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