

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

WHAT IS A “REASONABLE” SEARCH?

Chandra Katz is a criminal justice student taking online courses while working as a police officer at the local university. Officer Katz is patrolling the streets adjacent to the residence halls when she sees someone climbing into one of the windows. Katz wants to make sure that the individual is not a burglar. She knocks on the apartment door and no one answers. She turns the knob and learns the door is unlocked. She opens the door and

walks in. A group of students (not criminal justice majors, we hope) is sitting in the living room smoking marijuana.

YOU DECIDE

1. Can Katz search the apartment? Why or why not?
2. Should Katz arrest the students? Explain.
3. Would it matter if the students were older, or if they lived in Colorado? Explain.