

Virginia Case Law

◆ *Robinson v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, 273 Va. 26, 639 S.E.2d 217 (2007): Exigent circumstances justified officer's entry into the backyard of defendants' home, where he responded to a call reporting underage drinking, and observed young people in the backyard with alcohol, who began to flee when they saw the officer. Had the officer left to obtain a warrant, there was a high probability that evidence would have been destroyed, and it was reasonable to believe that juveniles might have attempted to drive away while under the influence.

◆ *Wood v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, 27 Va. App. 21, 497 S.E.2d 484 (Ct. App. 1998): Officers' entry onto the second floor of defendant's home was not justified under the community caretaker doctrine, where police went there to investigate his wife's complaint that he had assaulted her, and entered the second floor after defendant's arrest and removal from the home. The officers stated that they were searching for his missing stepson, that they saw a light upstairs, and that they noticed a foul smell in the house.

◆ *Hughes v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, 18 Va. App. 510, 446 S.E.2d 451 (Ct. App. 1994): In a child abduction case, clothing fiber and carpet fiber evidence and defendant's statements were admissible, where the child's mother had seen defendant approach the child at a party, police questioned him about the child's disappearance, and received his wife's permission to search their automobile.

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