

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COURT SERVICES BUREAU
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

DATE	DISSEMINATION	CATEGORY	NUMBER
July 18, 2014	BUREAU-WIDE	NORMAL OPERATIONS	F.16
SUBJECT: INMATE SEARCHES			PAGE 1 of 2

Purpose:

To establish guidelines and procedures within the Court Services Bureau (CSB) for inmate searches.

Policy:

All inmate searches will be conducted for the purpose of providing a safe and secure environment for inmates and staff in compliance with the applicable legal standards.

Procedure:

I. Pat Down Searches

- A. All inmates are subject to pat down searches, metal detector searches, and thorough searches of their clothing and belongings.
- B. No pat down search of an inmate of the opposite gender shall be conducted, except in the company of an employee of the same gender as the inmate. 4021 PC defines an employee as "a deputy sheriff, correctional officer, custodial officer, medical staff person or designated civilian employee whose duties may include, but are not limited to, maintaining custody and control of persons who have been arrested or sentenced, or both."

II. Reasonable Suspicion Searches

- A. Reasonable Suspicion- the belief, based on specific and articulable facts, that an inmate is carrying or concealing contraband. Reasonable suspicion may be based on factors including the inmate's charges, demeanor and conduct, and the inmate's criminal history if the prior arrests are proximate in time to indicate a current propensity for carrying or concealing weapons or contraband.
- B. Strip searches may be conducted based on reasonable suspicion.
- C. No strip search based on reasonable suspicion may be conducted without the prior written authorization of the supervising officer on duty. The authorization shall include the specific and articulable facts and

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circumstances upon which the reasonable suspicion determination was made by the supervisor. Department Form J-52 may be used to satisfy this written authorization requirement.

- D. All persons conducting or otherwise present during a strip search shall be of the same gender as the inmate being searched, except for physicians or licensed medical personnel.
- E. In the event deputies are summoned to assist with a combative inmate of the opposite gender during the strip search process, the gender of responding personnel shall not be taken into consideration until the inmate is under control.
- F. Strip searches may involve a visual body cavity search. No physical body cavity search will be conducted without a search warrant. Upon receipt of a search warrant, proper medical personnel will conduct the search. Under no circumstances can security staff conduct such a search.