



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-84

Effective: 01/14/16 Review Due: 01/14/17 Replaces: 04/27/15

2-84 BODY CAVITY AND STRIP SEARCHES

2-84-1 Policy

Department policy is to ensure that body cavity/strip searches of prisoners are conducted within the limits of legal authority.

2-84-2 Definitions

A. Strip Search

The suspect/arrested person removes all articles of clothing and is visually examined for any signs of concealed evidence.

B. Body Cavity Search

A search conducted by qualified medical personnel of a suspect/arrested person on specific body cavities for the purpose of retrieving necessary evidence.

2.84.3 Rules and Procedures

[6] A. Strip Search

1. Strip searches will be conducted only after the officer/detective has obtained the following:

- a. Established probable cause and has reason to believe exigent circumstances exist. The probable cause and the exigent circumstances will be articulated in the offense report and/or supplemental report; or
- b. Written consent to search from the suspect/arrested person or a valid search warrant.

2. Strip searches will be conducted in the following manner:

- a. An officer/detective of the same sex will search the suspect/arrested person(s).
- b. Another officer/detective of the same sex will witness the search.
- c. The search will be conducted in an interior, secure location out of public view. Strip searches will not be conducted within vehicles or outside.
- d. If an item(s) is located within the suspect's person, the detective will:
 - i. Request that the subject removes the item(s) from his/her person.
 - ii. Adhere to 2-20-3-B of this section, if the subject cannot or will not remove the item.
 - iii. Properly package and tag any evidence that is retrieved.



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- e. All articles of clothing will be thoroughly searched before returning them to the suspect.
- f. The search will be documented on an offense report or supplemental report detailing the probable cause, persons present, location, and items retrieved.
- g. The officer will record the search with audio only and document the start and stop time of the search, persons present, location of search and items retrieved. The recording will be tagged as evidence.

[6] B. Body Cavity Search

1. Body cavity searches will be conducted only with a valid search warrant.
2. Officers/detectives will not personally conduct body cavity searches.
3. Body cavity searches will be conducted in the following manner:
 - a. Suspect/arrested person(s) will be taken to a medical facility where qualified medical personnel will conduct the search.
 - b. The officer/detective will provide the medical personnel a copy of the search warrant.
 - c. If an item(s) is located within the subject's person, the officer/detective will retrieve the item(s) from the medical personnel and properly package and tag the item into evidence.
 - d. The search will be documented on an offense report and/or supplemental report and will include the name(s) of the medical personnel who conducted the search, and the name and location of the medical facility where the search was conducted.