



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT**

VOLUME NO. 11

D.S.O.P. NO. 11-022

	<b>SUBJECT: FRISK AND STRIP SEARCH PROCEDURES</b>	
	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2005</b>	
	<b>SUPERSEDES: JANUARY 24, 2000</b>	
	<b>RELATED ACA STANDARDS: ALDF-2A-20, 4ALDF-2A-24, 4-ALDF-2C-01, 4-ALDF-2C-03 thru 05; and 2-CO-4A-01</b>	
	<b>RELATED REFERENCES: F.S.S. 901.21; 901.211; 951.22; Florida Model Jail Standards 4.02; 4.04.</b>	

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**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR) to have procedures and practices governing searches of persons to detect and deter the introduction, fabrication, possession, and conveyance of contraband entering into any MDCR detention facility. Staff and inmates are advised of the prohibitions against contraband. Searches will be performed on an ongoing basis, in accordance with section 901.211 of the Florida Statutes, for security reasons, control of contraband, and staff and inmate safety.

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The inspection by sight, touch, and electronic scanning device of an individual's clothed body, outer clothing, and possessions, to include footwear, pockets, hats, hair, wigs, mouth, nose, and ears.

**B. FIRST APPEARANCE**

The inmate's appearance before a judge within 24 hours of arrest.

**C. STRIP SEARCH**

Having an arrested person remove or arrange some or all of his or her clothing so as to permit a visual and/or manual inspection of the genitals; buttocks; anus; breast, in the case of a female; or undergarments of such person.

**D. BODY CAVITY SEARCH**

A visual, manual, and/or instrument inspection of an inmate's orifices conducted only by trained medical personnel.

**E. PROBABLE CAUSE**

Known facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe a strip search is justified.

**F. REASONABLE SUSPICION**

Known facts and circumstances, and rational inferences from those known facts and circumstances, that would lead a reasonable person to suspect a strip search is justified.

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1. Female inmates shall be frisk searched by female officers except in emergency situations.
2. Male inmates may be frisk searched by either male or female officers. However, if a male officer is available for the frisk search of a male inmate, he will conduct the frisk search.

**B. STRIP SEARCH**

1. It is mandatory that staff of the same gender as the inmate performs the strip search.
2. In an emergency, an officer of the opposite gender may be present during a strip search. The shift supervisor/commander will be notified and will make an addendum to the MDCR Incident Report detailing the specifics of the situation.

**IV. PROCEDURES****A. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Each officer conducting a strip or frisk search will wear double gloves. All gloves, after each usage, will be disposed of in a biohazard bag (red) or receptacle. For additional information, see Departmental Standard Operating Procedure (DSOP) #6-014, "Communicable Disease - Exposure Control Plan."

**B. WHEN TO CONDUCT A FRISK SEARCH**

All arrested persons will be frisk searched prior to entry into the secured areas of a facility when being admitted into the jail system. Other circumstances that warrant a frisk search of an inmate include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Inmates entering or exiting their assigned housing areas;
2. Prior to and after recreation; law library; religious, educational and work programs; clinic visits or any activity within the confines of the facility;

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3. After a cell or housing unit search;
4. During a shakedown;
5. When being transported;
6. At any other time the officer believes such a search is warranted.

**C. SPECIFIC STEPS FOR CONDUCTING A FRISK SEARCH**

1. Instruct the inmate to remove all items from his/her pockets and turn the pockets inside out. Have the inmate remove shoes, socks/stockings, hat, jacket, coat, belt, and sweater. If the inmate is wearing hair curlers, a wig, removable hairpiece, or other removable ornaments in the hair, have the inmate remove these items.
2. Instruct the inmate to run his/her fingers through the hair. The officer should then run his/her fingers through the inmate's hair, looking for any hidden contraband.
3. Instruct the inmate to stand still with his/her feet apart and arms extended forward. Have the inmate lean forward against an object, (i.e., a wall, desk, etc.), so that the arms support the body weight. The arms and feet should be far enough apart from the wall and spread in a manner that puts the inmate slightly off balance. This is to lessen the possibility of a physical move or an attempt by the inmate to assault the frisking officer.
4. Search the individual from the back.
5. The officer will carefully feel the collar of the shirt/blouse/sweater, etc., with the fingers, checking for any item that may be concealed there. During the search, officers should use universal precautions and be cognizant that inmates routinely conceal syringes on their person.
6. Using the hand, the officer will carefully feel down the shirt front and shirt back, checking the pockets, and stopping at the belt line. For females, the officer will pull the bra away from the body and shake the bra in order to dislodge any items that may be hidden. The officer will check under the inmate's breasts with their fingers. At no time will the palm of the hand cup the breast. For any pockets that cannot be turned out, the officer will isolate the items in the pockets and remove the item by holding the pocket open and

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pulling the pocket lining upward until the items can be seen and removed. During any search, officers should avoid placing their hands into any area, which cannot be visually inspected.

7. The officer will run the hands over the shoulders, arms, and under the armpits. Then, the officer with the cup of the hands will feel down each arm to the cuff of the shirt.
8. Using the fingers, the officer will check inside of the waistband.
9. The officer will run the hands over the buttocks and the lower abdominal area.
10. Using the web of the hand, the officer will run the hands around each thigh until the web of the hands meet between the inner thigh and the groin area. Using the back of the hand, the officer will search from the lower abdomen over the buttocks checking for contraband that may be concealed. The officer, keeping their head above their shoulders will run the hands down the inmate's pant leg to the foot of each leg.
11. The officer will have the inmate stand erect and face him/her at a distance of more than an arm's length. The inmate's mouth, nose, ears, hands, feet and between the fingers and toes will be checked. If the inmate has any removable dental work, (i.e., denture, partial denture), have the inmate remove these items for inspection and keep the item in his/her hand.
12. Search all remaining property (i.e., socks, shoes, jacket) the inmate has in his/her possession. All unauthorized items will be placed in the inmate's property for storage. All cigarettes and other contraband will be disposed of according to established procedures.
13. If an inmate has a removable splint, cast, prosthesis, artificial eye, or if an inmate is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, the following steps will be taken:
  - a. Removable splints – have the inmate remove the splint, check the area and the splint, and return splint to the inmate. (This shall be conducted in the presence of a Corrections Health Services [CHS] medical staff member);

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- b. Cast - use a hand-held metal detector to scan the cast area. A tongue depressor may be used to check a short distance down the cast if necessary;

If more than one finger can be placed between the cast and the skin of the inmate, the inmate will be taken to the clinic. If an item is detected in the cast while conducting the frisk search, the inmate will be taken to the clinic immediately after the frisk search is completed. Medical staff will determine if the inmate should be sent for an x-ray of the cast and/or removal of the item.

- c. Prosthesis - have the inmate remove the prosthesis, check the prosthesis for contraband and return it to the inmate;
- d. Artificial eye - if the inmate has an artificial eye, the inmate will be escorted to the clinic where only medical staff will remove the eye;
- e. Upon completion of the frisk search, direct/escort the inmate to an area where he/she cannot commingle with other inmates who have not been frisk searched.

**D. CONTRABAND**

If during the frisk/strip search process contraband is discovered, it will be processed in accordance with DSOP 18-005, "Inmate Personal Property Control and Inventory," or if during the intake process, in accordance with DSOP 18-006 "Intake Procedures."

**E. WHEN TO CONDUCT A STRIP SEARCH**

Inmates charged with weapon violations, violent crimes, or possession of controlled substances will be strip searched during the intake process.

Inmates must be strip searched one at a time. All strip searches must be conducted out of the view of persons not conducting the strip search, out of the view of other inmates, and in an area designated for this purpose to provide maximum privacy for the inmate. Prior to the strip search, the area will be checked for contraband.

Upon intake, if the officer believes a felony inmate based on reasonable suspicion, or a misdemeanor inmate based on probable cause, is concealing a weapon,

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controlled substance, or contraband, and a frisk search is not sufficient to discover the weapon, controlled substance, or contraband, then the inmate shall be strip searched. This may be based on the officer's familiarity with the inmate's history, conversations with the arresting officer or inmate, or a review of the arrest affidavit. The decision to strip search an inmate shall be made without regard to the inmate's gender. Inmates will not be strip searched randomly or as harassment.

Inmates may also be strip searched under the following conditions:

1. Housed in general population, and there is reasonable belief that the inmate may be in possession of an item of contraband;
2. When a judge at first appearance has found that the person arrested cannot be released either on recognizance or bond and, therefore, must be incarcerated, a strip search shall be performed prior to assignment of the inmate to any housing unit/cell at any departmental facility;
3. Newly transported from other non-departmental correctional facilities as part of the intake procedures prior to being assigned to any general population unit/cell at any departmental facility;
4. Returning from an unescorted furlough will be strip searched before returning to general inmate population;
5. After the completion of a contact visit;
6. Each trusty returning to a facility from a work detail or assignment;
7. When reasonable suspicion exists that the inmate is suicidal in accordance with DSOP 12-005, "Recognizing and Supervising Mentally Ill Inmates," Section V.B.2.

**F. DOCUMENTATION FOR CONDUCTING A STRIP SEARCH**

1. Written authorization must be obtained from the on-duty rear lobby supervisor or other designated on-duty supervisor prior to strip searching an inmate, except when the health and safety of the inmate or others, or the security of the facility, is in immediate jeopardy.

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2. The rear lobby supervisor or the designated supervisor will record all strip searches conducted on the Intake Strip Search Tracking Authorization Form and the inmate's jail card.
3. The booking desk supervisor or designee will ensure all jail cards are stamped with the strip search authorization stamp prior to the jail card being given to the rear lobby/intake officer for completion during the booking process.
4. The officer conducting the strip search and the authorizing supervisor will complete the strip search authorization section on the inmate's jail card. In the event the authorizing supervisor and or/officer conducting the strip search is not available to complete the strip search authorization section of the jail card, the on-duty supervisor or designated supervisor will record the information from the Intake Strip Search Tracking Authorization Form and complete the area noted for the Recording Supervisor.
5. If the inmate is not strip searched, the rear lobby /intake officer completing the booking process of the inmate shall note this in the strip search authorization section on the inmate's jail card.
6. In the event a strip search is conducted prior to obtaining the on-duty supervisor's written authorization, the officer conducting the search shall generate an MDCR incident report and the reason for proceeding without a supervisor's authorization shall be noted.

**G. SPECIFIC STEPS FOR STRIP SEARCHING MALE INMATES**

1. There will be no physical contact with the inmate during any strip search, except to check the hair, when necessary. The inmate must not be allowed to eat, drink, or move from place to place during the strip search process;
2. The inmate will be instructed to bend over and vigorously run his fingers through his hair, which should dislodge any matter that may be hidden there. When the officer is satisfied that there is no danger, the officer may examine the inmate's hair;
3. While standing more than an arm's length from the officer, the officer will instruct the inmate to remove all clothing including socks, shoes, etc;



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4. The inmate will then be instructed to turn around and face the officer. He will then be instructed to place his hands in such a manner that the hands and between the fingers can be inspected;
5. The inmate will be instructed to open his mouth, raise his tongue, and tilt his head back so that his nostrils can be checked. He will be instructed to turn his head from side to side affording the officer the ability to check the inmate's ears for the purpose of detecting contraband. The officer should also conduct a visual assessment at this time to check for blood (flowing or dried) or fluids coming from the inmate's ears. The entire front surface of the inmate will be visually checked;
6. The inmate will be instructed to lift his genitals in such a way that the officer can visually check this area;
7. The officer will instruct the inmate to remove any body piercing objects (nose, tongue, navel, eye, etc.). In the event an inmate is unable to remove a body-piercing object, he will be examined by the CHS medical staff. In some instances, the CHS staff may determine that a body piercing is bonded and may not be removed;
8. The inmate will be instructed to turn around, and the entire back surface of the inmate will be visually checked;
9. The inmate will be instructed to bend forward at the waist as far as he can without falling over. He will then be told to reach behind himself with both hands and separate his buttocks for the purpose of exposing any items he may have placed there with the intent to conceal;
10. After returning to a standing position and while still facing away from the officer, the inmate will be instructed to lift each foot independently to display the soles of his feet. He will be instructed to spread his toes so that a visual check can be conducted;
11. All clothing will be inspected by feeling every item. All pockets will be checked. All shoes, shoe linings, heels, soles, etc., will be checked for contraband;
12. The inmate will be allowed to put his clothing back on and will be escorted out of the strip search area to an area where he cannot come in contact with other inmates who have not been strip searched;

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13. The officer will check the area for any contraband, which might have been disposed of by the inmate.

**H. SPECIFIC STEPS FOR STRIP SEARCHING FEMALE INMATES**

1. There will be no physical contact with the inmate during any strip search, except to check the hair, when necessary. The inmate must not be allowed to eat, drink, or move from place to place during the strip search process;
2. The inmate will be instructed to bend over and vigorously run her fingers through her hair, which should dislodge any matter that may be hidden in the hair. When the officer is satisfied that there is no danger, the officer may examine the inmate's hair;
3. While standing more than an arm's length from the officer, the inmate will be instructed to remove all clothing including socks, shoes, etc.;
4. The inmate will be instructed to turn around and face the officer. She will be instructed to place her hands in such a manner that the hands and between the fingers can be inspected;
5. The inmate will be instructed to open her mouth, raise her tongue, and tilt her head back so that her nostrils can be checked. She will then be instructed to turn her head from side to side affording the officer the ability to check the inmate's ears for the purpose of detecting contraband. The officer should also conduct a visual assessment at this time to check for blood (flowing or dried) or fluids coming from the inmate's ears. The entire front surface of the inmate will be visually checked;
6. The inmate will be instructed to lift her breasts so that the area under her breasts is exposed;
7. The officer will instruct the inmate to remove any body piercing objects (nose, tongue, navel, eye, etc.). In the event an inmate is unable to remove a body-piercing object, she will be examined by the CHS medical staff. In some instances, the CHS staff may determine that a body piercing is bonded and may not be removed;
8. The inmate will be instructed to turn around and the entire back surface of the inmate will be visually checked;

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9. The inmate will be instructed to squat with the feet apart, then bounce and cough several times to dislodge any hidden contraband. When returning to the standing position, the inmate will be asked to bend forward at the waist as far as she can without falling over. The inmate must reach behind herself with both hands and separate her buttocks for the purpose of exposing any items that she may have placed there with the intent to conceal;
10. While standing and still facing away from the officer, the inmate will be instructed to lift each foot independently to display the soles of her feet. The inmate will be instructed to spread her toes so that a visual check can be conducted;
11. The inmate will be instructed to turn around and face the officer. She will be instructed to place her hands in such a manner that the hands and between the fingers can be inspected;
12. All clothing will be inspected by feeling every item. All pockets will be checked. All footwear, footwear lining, heels, soles, seams, and waistbands, etc., will be thoroughly checked for contraband;
13. The inmate will be instructed to put her clothing back on and will be escorted out of the strip search area to an area where she cannot come in contact with other inmates who have not been strip searched;
14. The officer will check the area for contraband, which might have been disposed of by the inmate.

**I. BODY CAVITY SEARCH**

The facility supervisor or designee must authorize a body cavity search. All body cavity searches must be done in private and only licensed medical staff shall conduct a body cavity search. The inmate will be kept isolated until the CHS medical staff completes the body cavity search. A body cavity search shall only be made for probable cause, (i.e. when the officer conducting the strip search sees or suspects that the inmate may be concealing an object in a body cavity). The officer will request a body cavity search if it is determined that the inmate is concealing an object and refuses to remove it. An incident report will be generated and approved by the shift supervisor/ commander.

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All visitors who enter the security perimeter of any Department facility may be subject to a frisk/strip search. For specific procedures see DSOP 11-031 "Searching and Detaining Non-Inmates".

**V. CROSS REFERENCES**

Departmental Standard Operating Procedure #11-019, "Contraband Detection Procedures."

Departmental Standard Operating Procedure #12-005, "Recognizing and Supervising Mentally Ill Inmates."

Departmental Standard Operating Procedures #11-031, "Searching and Detaining Non-Inmates."

Departmental Standard Operating Procedure, #18-005 "Intake Personal Property Control and Inventory."

Departmental Standard Operating Procedures #18-006, "Intake Procedures."

Procedural Directive: #D05-012 reference, DSOP #11-022, "Frisk and Strip Search Procedures."

**VI. REVOCAATION**

None.

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Approved by:

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Charles J. McRay, Director

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Assistant County Attorney

**FORMS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Incident Report  
Intake Strip Search Tracking Authorization Form