

## Abington Township Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

<b>Chapter:</b>	Law Enforcement Role and Authority	<b>General Order:</b>	1.2.8
<b>Section:</b>	Limits of Authority	<b>Original Date:</b>	050104
<b>Title:</b>	Strip and Body Cavity Searches	<b>Re-Issue Date:</b>	020818
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<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Patrick Malloy</i>	<b>Expiration Date:</b>	Indefinite
<b>Replaces:</b>	All Previous General Orders Relative to Subject		
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<b>CALEA Standard References:</b>	1.2.8		
<b>Pennsylvania Accreditation References:</b>	1.2.5		

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to provide members with guidelines on strip and body cavity searches.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Abington Township Police Department that strip and body cavity searches are sometimes necessary for agency safety and security or to seize evidence of criminal activity. These searches are highly intrusive and will be conducted within the limits of legal authority, out of public view, and with due regard for human dignity.

### III. PROCEDURE

#### A. Authority for Conducting Strip and Body Cavity Searches

1. All strip searches or body cavity searches shall be conducted pursuant to law.
2. No detainee shall be strip-searched without a warrant unless there is **probable cause** to believe that the individual is concealing a weapon, a controlled substance or contraband.
3. No search of any body cavity other than the mouth shall be conducted without a **search warrant**. Any warrant authorizing a body cavity search shall specify that the search is required to be performed under sanitary conditions and conducted either by, or under the supervision of, a person licensed to practice medicine.

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B. Provisions for Privacy and Search by Gender

1. Strip searches shall be conducted only in the presence of, and performed by, officers of the same sex as the arrested person and on premises where the search cannot be observed by persons not physically conducting the search or not absolutely necessary to conduct the search.

C. Reporting Requirements

1. All strip searches will be documented in the narrative section of the Incident Report Form in the Police CAD/RMS system, including the elements of the probable cause used to justify their actions.
2. All Body Cavity Searches will be documented in the narrative section of the Incident Report Form in the Police CAD/RMS system, including details relevant to the search warrant.