


<p style="text-align: center;">STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 11-29-2018
	Title: Strip Search Authorization	No. 7.5
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 11-29-2018
	AS – 1.7.1g, 1.7.1h	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide procedural guidelines for compliance with

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to follow the procedures as set forth below.

DEFINITIONS:

Strip Search (C.G.S .54-33k) - means having an arrested person remove or arrange some or all of his or her clothing or, if an arrested person refuses to remove or arrange his or her clothing, having a peace officer or employee of the police department remove or arrange the clothing of the arrested person so as to permit a visual inspection of the genitals, buttocks, anus, female breasts or undergarments used to clothe said anatomical parts of the body.

PROCEDURE:

Strip searches are prohibited when a person has been arrested for a motor vehicle violation or misdemeanor unless there is a reasonable belief that the arrestee is concealing a weapon, a controlled substance or contraband.

It is this department’s policy to apply these same prohibitions to conducting a strip search with an arrestee charged with a felony. This standard is in no way intended to limit or restrict a department member from the lawful right to conduct a full body search incident to a lawful custodial arrest.

Authorization

Authorization to conduct a strip search must be obtained in writing from the Chief of Police or his designee. Any shift commander shall be an authorized designee of the Chief of Police and shall be authorized to order a strip search where there is reasonable belief that an arrestee is armed, concealing a controlled substance or concealing contraband. The investigating department member(s) shall advise the shift commander of the grounds supporting such belief.

Reasonable belief is not the same as probable cause having a lesser demanding standard than that of probable cause, being closer in relation to the standard or circumstances surrounding the justification for a “Terry” pat down for weapons.

Documentation

Upon authorization by a shift commander strip search form SS-1 shall be completed and signed by the shift commander. The original authorization form will become part of the case file, with copies submitted to court and the person who was searched. The shift commander shall notify the Chief of Police of the strip search in writing and include the circumstances requiring such search **(1.7.1h)**.

The Search

The strip search shall be conducted on a premises where the search cannot be observed by persons not physically conducting the search or not absolutely necessary to conduct the search **(1.7.1g)**.

All strip searches shall be performed by a person of the same sex as the arrested person, and shall be an employee or member of this department **(1.7.1h)**.

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 **(1.7.1g, h)**.