


# The Tarrant County College District Police Department

## GENERAL ORDER

	SUBJECT	GENERAL ORDER NUMBER
	<b>CUSTODY SEARCHES</b>	<b>312.00</b>
	CALEA STANDARDS	EFFECTIVE DATE <b>May 1, 2015</b>
		REVISION DATE
	APPROVAL	PAGES
	<b>Shaun Williams, Chief of Police</b>	<b>2</b>

**Purpose** - The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent department procedures regarding frisks (pat down searches), searches incident to arrest, booking and strip searches of arrested persons arraignment detainees.

### 312.01 – DEFINITIONS

**Booking Search** – This search involves a thorough search of an arrested individual's clothing. All pockets, cuffs and folds on the clothing are checked to locate all personal property, contraband or weapons. The prisoner's personal property is taken and inventoried.

**Frisk (Pat Down Search)** – This is a limited type of search used by officers in the field when an officer has a reasonable suspicion that an individual may be in possession of a weapon or other potentially dangerous item. Unlike a full search, a frisk is generally limited to a patting down of the outer clothing or the area immediately accessible to the individual to check for the possible presence of a weapon or items that could pose a danger to the officer or others.

**Physical Body Cavity Search** – This is a search that includes physical intrusion into a body cavity. Body cavity means the stomach or rectal cavity of a person, and the vagina of a female.

**Strip Search or Visual Body Cavity Search** – This is a search that requires a person to remove or rearrange some or all of his/her clothing to permit a visual inspection of the underclothing, breasts, buttocks or genitalia.

### 312.02 – FRISK (PAT DOWN SEARCHES)

- A. When any officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that a person being lawfully detained may possess weapons or other dangerous items, or when the officer reasonably believes that the individual may present a threat to officer safety, that officer may conduct a frisk of the individual.
- B. Prior to detaining any individual in any police vehicle, an officer should conduct a frisk of that individual.
- C. Whenever practicable, a frisk of an individual should be conducted by an officer of the same sex as the person being frisked. Absent the availability of a same sex officer, it is recommended that a witness officer be present during any frisk of an individual who is the opposite sex of the officer conducting the frisk.

### **312.03 – BOOKING SEARCHES**

- A. A thorough search shall be conducted on each arrested person prior to the person being transported to jail. A follow-up search should be performed upon entry into a jail facility during the booking process (*37 Texas Administrative Code § 265.2(a)*).

### **312.04 – STRIP SEARCHES**

- A. No person arrested and held in custody shall be subjected to a strip search or visual/manual body cavity search prior to placement in the general jail population unless an officer has determined that there is reasonable suspicion based upon specific and articulable facts to believe such person is concealing a weapon or contraband which would be discovered by such a search (*37 Texas Administrative Code § 265.2(b)*).
- B. No strip search or visual body cavity search shall be conducted without prior written authorization from a supervisor. The time, date and place of the search, the name and sex of the person conducting the search and a statement of the results of the search shall be recorded in the arrest record. A copy of the written authorization and recorded information shall be retained and made available to the arrestee or other authorized representative upon request.
- C. All strip and visual body cavity searches shall be conducted under sanitary conditions and in an area of privacy so that the search cannot be observed by persons not participating in the search.
- D. Unless conducted by a physician or other licensed medical personnel, the officer(s) conducting the strip search or visual body cavity search shall be of the same sex as the person being searched.
  - 1. Whenever possible, a second officer of the same sex should also be present during the search, for security and as a witness to the finding of evidence.
- E. The officer conducting a strip search or visual body cavity search shall not touch the breasts, buttocks or genitalia of the person being searched.

### **312.05 – VISUAL/MANUAL BODY CAVITY SEARCH**

- A. No person arrested on a misdemeanor or infraction shall be subjected to a body cavity search without a search warrant and approval of a supervisor.
- B. A copy of the search warrant and the results of any body cavity search shall be included with the related reports and made available, upon request, to the arrestee or authorized representative.
- C. Only a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse or Level II Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) may conduct a manual body cavity search.
- D. Except for the above mentioned licensed medical personnel, persons present must be of the same sex as the person being searched. Privacy requirements, including restricted touching of body parts, is the same as the strip search standard.