

North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Prisons
Policy Summary Sheet



Operational Searches

Chapter: F

Section: .0100

Current Review Date:

August 12, 2019

Reviewed By:

Prisons Security Accountability Section

Next Review Due:

August 12, 2020

Current Revision Date:

August 12, 2019

Supersedes Revision Dated:

July 10, 2013

Current Revision Summary (if applicable):

All current changes are highlighted in yellow. The term “inmate” has been changed to “offender” throughout policy. References to “Department of Correction” have been changed to “Department of Public Safety” throughout policy. The term “sex” has been changed to “gender” throughout policy. Gender neutral pronouns have replaced gender specific pronouns throughout policy.

Specific Changes

.0102 Definitions

Page 1 additional definitions have been added to policy: (d) Gender – A construct used to classify a person as male, female, both, or neither. “Gender” encompasses aspects of social identity, psychological identity, and human behavior. (e) Birth Sex – Gender assigned at birth by a physician based on external genitalia, internal reproductive organs, chromosome patterns and/or endocrine systems. (f) Exigent Circumstances - any set of temporary and unforeseen circumstances that require immediate action in order to combat a threat to the security or institutional order of a facility.

.0103 Policy

Page 2 (d) has been amended to provide clarity. Additional language has been added, “Offenders housed at male facilities will be strip searched by a male Correctional Officer” except in “exigent circumstances.” “A statement by witness form” explaining the exigent circumstances that justified the search exception. “A supervisor” will now be responsible for completing the Incident Report, no longer the staff conducting the search.

A new subsection (e) was added which reads, “Offenders housed at female facilities will be strip searched by a female Correctional Officer, except in exigent circumstances as determined by the shift supervisor. In such cases, the staff conducting the search will thereafter submit a statement by witness form, explaining the exigent circumstances that justified the search exception. A supervisor will be responsible for completing an Incident Report.” This addition resulted in identifiers changing from (e) to (g) to (e) to (h).

Additional language was added in (f) which notes, “Routine, clothed (pat/frisk) searches of offenders housed in a female facility by male staff will only be conducted during exigent circumstances. The staff will complete a statement by witness form explaining the exigent circumstances and a supervisor will be responsible for completing an Incident Report.

.0104 Searches of Offenders

Page 3 additional language has been added to (H) which provides clarity on conducting searches by stating, (i) “For offenders with a penis and/or scrotum,” and (ii) “For offenders with a vagina” then providing steps of conducting the search in each case.

Page 4 (b) (2) has language modified for clarity which now states, “During an exigent operation, the commanding Officer-In-Charge may order complete searches of offenders by Criminal Justice Certified staff regardless of gender.” In (b) (3) the term “segregation or control (disciplinary, administrative, maximum control, etc.)” has been changed to the current correct verbiage, “restrictive housing for administrative or control purposes.” In (b) (5) terminology, “high security maximum control, maximum control and intensive control” is changed to read, “Restrictive Housing for Control Purposes or High Security Maximum Control.”

.0108 Complete Facility Search

Page 6 language has been amended noting a complete search of each facility shall be conducted “no” less than once each six months.

Karen R. Pardue

08/12/19

Strategic Planning and Policy Manager Date