

Custodial Searches

Effective Date:	01/31/2024
Revised Date:	03/06/2025
Issuing Authority: Chief Jay Miller	

903.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance regarding searches of individuals in custody. Such searches are necessary to eliminate the introduction of contraband, intoxicants, or weapons into the Alsip Police Department facility. Such items can pose a serious risk to the safety and security of [department/office] members, individuals in custody, contractors, and the public.

Guidance for custody searches when transporting a person in custody may be found in the Transporting Persons in Custody Policy.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit the otherwise lawful collection of evidence from an individual in custody.

903.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Custody search - An in-custody search of an individual and of his/her property, shoes and clothing, including pockets, cuffs and folds on the clothing, to remove all weapons, dangerous items and contraband.

Physical body cavity search - A search that includes a visual inspection and may include a physical intrusion into a body cavity. Body cavity means the stomach or rectal cavity of an individual, and the vagina of a female person.

Strip search - A search that requires an individual to remove or rearrange some or all of his/her clothing to permit a visual inspection of the underclothing, breasts, buttocks, anus or outer genitalia. This includes monitoring an individual who is changing clothes, where his/her underclothing, buttocks, genitalia or female breasts are visible.

903.2 POLICY

All searches shall be conducted with concern for safety, dignity, courtesy, respect for privacy and hygiene, and in compliance with policy and law to protect the rights of those who are subject to any search.

Searches shall not be used for intimidation, harassment, punishment or retaliation.

Custodial Searches

903.3 SEARCHES AT POLICE FACILITIES

Custody searches shall be conducted on all individuals in custody, upon entry to the Alsip Police Department facilities. Except in exigent circumstances, the search should be conducted by a member of the same sex as the individual being searched. If a member of the same sex is not available, a witnessing member must be present during the search.

Custody searches should also be conducted any time an individual in custody enters or re-enters a secure area, or any time it is reasonably believed that a search is necessary to maintain the safety and security of the facility.

903.3.1 PROPERTY

Members shall take reasonable care in handling the property of an individual in custody to avoid discrepancies or losses. Property retained for safekeeping shall be kept in a secure location until the individual is released or transferred.

Some property may not be accepted by a facility or agency that is taking custody of an individual from this [department/office], such as weapons or large items. These items should be retained for safekeeping in the prisoner property cabinet. This cabinet should be secured at all times. This property will be handled in accordance with the Evidence Room Policy.

All property shall be inventoried by objective description (this does not include an estimated value). The individual from whom it was taken shall be required to sign the completed inventory. If the individual's signature cannot be obtained, the inventory shall be witnessed by another [department/office] member. The inventory should include the case number, date, time, member's Alsip Police Department identification number, and information regarding how and when the property may be released.

903.3.2 VERIFICATION OF MONEY

All money shall be counted in front of the individual from whom it was received. When possible, the individual shall initial the dollar amount on the inventory. Additionally, all money should be placed in a separate envelope and sealed. Negotiable checks or other instruments and foreign currency should also be sealed in an envelope with the amount indicated but not added to the cash total. All envelopes should clearly indicate the contents on the front. The [department/office] member sealing it should place their initials across the sealed flap. Should any money be withdrawn or added, the member making such change shall enter the amount below the original entry and initial it. The amount of money in the envelope should always be totaled and written on the outside of the envelope.

903.4 STRIP SEARCHES

No individual in temporary custody at any Alsip Police Department facility shall be subjected to a strip search unless there is reasonable suspicion based upon specific and articulable facts to believe the individual has a health condition requiring immediate medical attention or is concealing a weapon or contraband. Factors to be considered in determining reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to:

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Custodial Searches

- (a) The detection of an object during a custody search that may be a weapon or contraband and cannot be safely retrieved without a strip search.
- (b) Circumstances of a current arrest that specifically indicate the individual may be concealing a weapon or contraband.
 - 1. A felony arrest charge or being under the influence of a controlled substance should not suffice as reasonable suspicion absent other facts.
- (c) Custody history (e.g., past possession of contraband while in custody, assaults on [department/office] members, escape attempts).
- (d) The individual's actions or demeanor.
- (e) Criminal history (i.e., level of experience in a custody setting).

Inmates who have not been arraigned and remanded by the court to the custody of this [department/office] and are being held for a traffic, regulatory, or misdemeanor offense that does not involve weapons or a controlled substance, shall only be subject to a modified strip or strip search for weapons or controlled substances (725 ILCS 5/103-1).

No transgender or intersex individual shall be searched or examined for the sole purpose of determining the individual's genital status. If the individual's genital status is unknown, it may be determined during conversations with the person, by reviewing medical records, or as a result of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner (28 CFR 115.115).

903.4.1 STRIP SEARCH PROCEDURES

Strip searches at Alsip Police Department facilities shall be conducted as follows (28 CFR 115.115; 725 ILCS 5/103-1):

- (a) Written authorization from the Patrol Sergeant shall be obtained prior to the strip search.
- (b) All members involved with the strip search shall be of the same sex as the individual being searched.
- (c) All strip searches shall be conducted in a professional manner under sanitary conditions and in a secure area of privacy so that it cannot be observed by those not participating in the search. The search shall not be reproduced through a visual or sound recording.
- (d) Whenever possible, a second member of the same sex should also be present during the search, for security and as a witness to the finding of evidence.
- (e) Members conducting a strip search shall not touch the breasts, buttocks or genitalia of the individual being searched.
- (f) The primary member conducting the search shall prepare a written report to include:
 - 1. The facts that led to the decision to perform a strip search.

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Custodial Searches

2. The reasons less intrusive methods of searching were not used or were insufficient.
 3. The written authorization for the search, obtained from the Patrol Sergeant.
 4. The name of the individual who was searched.
 5. The name and sex of the members who conducted the search.
 6. The name, sex and role of any person present during the search.
 7. The time and date of the search.
 8. The place at which the search was conducted.
 9. A list of the items, if any, that were recovered.
 10. The facts upon which the member based his/her belief that the individual was concealing a weapon or contraband.
- (g) No member should view an individual's private underclothing, buttocks, genitalia or female breasts while that individual is showering, performing bodily functions or changing clothes, unless he/she otherwise qualifies for a strip search. However, if serious hygiene or health issues make it reasonably necessary to assist the individual with a shower or a change of clothes, a supervisor should be contacted to ensure reasonable steps are taken to obtain the individual's consent and/or otherwise protect his/her privacy and dignity.
- (h) A copy of the strip search report shall be provided to the individual subject to the search.

903.4.2 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE FIELD STRIP SEARCHES

A strip search may be conducted in the field only with Patrol Sergeant authorization and only in exceptional circumstances, such as when:

- (a) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing a weapon or other dangerous item that cannot be recovered by a more limited search.
- (b) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing controlled substances or evidence that cannot be recovered by a more limited search, and there is no reasonable alternative to ensure the individual cannot destroy or ingest the substance during transportation.

These special-circumstance field strip searches shall only be authorized and conducted under the same restrictions as the strip search procedures in this policy, except that the Patrol Sergeant authorization does not need to be in writing.

903.5 PHYSICAL BODY CAVITY SEARCH

Physical body cavity searches shall be subject to the following (725 ILCS 5/103-1):

Custodial Searches

- (a) No individual shall be subjected to a physical body cavity search without written approval of the Patrol Sergeant and only upon a search warrant. A copy of any search warrant and the results of the physical body cavity search shall be included with the related reports and made available, upon request, to the individual or authorized representative (except for those portions of the warrant ordered sealed by a court).
- (b) A physical body cavity search shall be conducted either by or under the supervision of a physician.
- (c) Except for the physician conducting the search, persons present must be of the same sex as the individual being searched. Only the necessary [department/office] members needed to maintain the safety and security of the medical personnel shall be present.
- (d) Privacy requirements, including restricted touching of body parts and sanitary condition requirements, are the same as required for a strip search.
- (e) All such searches shall be documented, including:
 - 1. The facts that led to the decision to perform a physical body cavity search of the individual.
 - 2. The reasons less intrusive methods of searching were not used or were insufficient.
 - 3. The Patrol Sergeant's approval.
 - 4. A copy of the search warrant.
 - 5. The time, date, and location of the search.
 - 6. The medical personnel present.
 - 7. The names, sex, and roles of any [department/office] members present.
 - 8. Any contraband or weapons discovered by the search.
- (f) A copy of the written authorization shall be retained and shall be provided to the individual who was searched or other authorized representative upon request.

903.6 TRAINING

The Services Supervisor shall ensure members have training that includes (28 CFR 115.115):

- (a) Conducting searches of cross-gender individuals.
- (b) Conducting searches of transgender and intersex individuals.
- (c) Conducting searches in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs.

903.7 GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION CONSIDERATIONS

If an individual who is subject to a strip search or physical body cavity search has a gender identity or expression that differs from their sex assigned at birth, the search should be conducted by members of the same gender identity or expression as the individual, unless the individual requests otherwise.

Custodial Searches

903.8 JUVENILES

No juvenile should be subjected to a strip search or a physical body cavity search at the [Department/Office].

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should establish procedures for the following:

- (a) Safely transporting a juvenile who is suspected of concealing a weapon or contraband, or who may be experiencing a medical issue related to such concealment, to a medical facility or juvenile detention facility as appropriate in the given circumstances
 - 1. Procedures should include keeping a juvenile suspected of concealing a weapon under constant and direct supervision until custody is transferred to the receiving facility.
- (b) Providing officers with information identifying appropriate medical and juvenile detention facilities to which a juvenile should be transported for a strip or body cavity search

Nothing in this section is intended to prevent an officer from rendering medical aid to a juvenile in emergency circumstances (see the Medical Aid and Response Policy for additional guidance).