



**Department of Corrections**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN**  
**Subject: BODY SEARCHES OF**  
**CLOTHED FEMALE INMATES**

**Number:**  
**05-01**

**Date:**  
**May 26, 2005**

**Canceled Effective:**

The purpose of this Administrative Bulletin (AB) is to announce the modification of California Department of Corrections' (CDC) policy related to body searches of clothed female inmates.

Background:

The CDC recognizes that body searches of clothed female inmates are essential to maintain the level of safety and security necessary in an institutional setting, and that this level of security shall be maintained while limiting this function to female correctional employees as directed by this AB.

It is the intent of this policy to provide body search procedures for clothed female inmates that recognize, address, and minimize the effect of cross-gender contact inherent in the body search process by strictly limiting this function to female correctional employees unless required by an emergency as described below.

Policy:

Body searches of clothed female inmates shall be conducted by female correctional employees only, except in emergency situations as follows:

- When circumstances exist that require the immediate search of inmates in order to avoid the threat of death, escape, or great bodily injury, and only until sufficient numbers of female correctional employees are available to assume critical body search duties.

Body searches performed by male correctional employees during the above circumstances shall sweep the inmate's breast and genital area with the back of the hand, and are intended for the discovery of contraband directly related to the threat posed by the emergency. If cause exists to indicate that a more thorough search is necessary, the inmate shall be detained until a female correctional employee is available to conduct a search.

Under no circumstances shall male correctional employees perform non-emergency body searches of female inmates.

Each warden of institutions housing female inmates shall ensure that post orders describe minimum search frequency requirements, authority, and method for accomplishment in accordance with this AB, and Department Operations Manual Chapter 5, Article 19, Arrest, Search and Seizure, Section 52050.15, Search Policy.



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Please ensure that all persons concerned are informed of the contents of this AB, which shall remain in effect until incorporated into the appropriate articles of the Department Operations Manual Chapter 5, Custody and Security Operations. Please direct any inquiries concerning this bulletin to Tim Quackenbush, Correctional Captain, Regional Administration South, at (916) 323-2812.

*Original signed by:*

J. S. WOODFORD  
Director  
Department of Corrections