

Full Body Scanner

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Whatcom County Corrections Bureau to appropriately search each individual being booked into one of the 2 Corrections Facilities. This is to prevent items that are classified as contraband from entering the facility for the safety and security of the Offenders, Staff and Visitors.

Persons Affected

All Corrections Deputies who have received training and certification for the use of the SecurePass scanner

Definitions

Scanner- The SecurePass Full Body Security Scanner located on the 1st floor of the Downtown Jail. This tool utilizes scatter x-ray technology to produce an image revealing the presence of contraband concealed on or inside a person.

Use of the Scanner:

Bookings

All bookings will be Pat-Searched as specified in Corrections Policy 320 and Procedure 320A. Upon completion of the search, the removal of all visible personal items, and changing into greens, the offender will be escorted to the scanner area.

The Deputy will input the inmate's name number, with leading zeros ("0") to make the inmate's name number 8 digits long, and escort the offender to the scanner platform. The Deputy will explain the process and complete the scan, documenting in the Spillman system that the search had been completed and the search results.

In the event that offender is non-cooperative, they will be placed in a first floor cell and isolated from offenders who have been scanned. Once the offender is cooperating at a level where they can stand still for the duration of the scan, they will be scanned and the results noted in Spillman. Physical force will not be used to compel their cooperation; however, a Deputy may physically assist a cooperative offender onto the scanner platform if needed.

In the event an inmate refuses and there exists a reasonable suspicion to believe the offender has an item on their person that meet the criteria for a strip search (Policies 320, 321, Procedure 320c) the Deputy will consult with the Shift Sergeant to approve the search, as specified in the above policies/procedures.

If an offender is pregnant and/or has a physical disability that does not allow for them to stand for the duration of the scan, the other search procedures specified in Policy 320 shall be followed. This will include strip searches, providing the criteria are met. If the offender reports she is pregnant and therefore cannot be scanned, Jail Medical will be notified and requested to confirm the pregnancy.

If an anomaly is found on the scanned image which could be contraband, the following steps will be taken:

If the anomaly is on the individual, it will be removed and either placed in the offender's property or turned over to the arresting office, depending on what the item is.

If the anomaly appears to be in the offender, the Deputy conducting the scan will explain to the offender that something has been picked up on the scan and that it appears to be contraband. The offender will be given the opportunity to identify the object(s) being viewed on the scan. If the Deputy believes the object(s) to be contraband, they will give the offender the option of removing the object voluntarily. If the offender chooses to do so, a Deputy will stand by until the object has been removed and turned over to the Deputy. The offender will then be re-scanned to make certain there is nothing remaining. The normal process for the discovery and handing over of contraband will then be followed, with the additional step of saving the image with a descriptive label for future reference. The minimum information on the descriptive label should be the inmate's name number, name and date of the scan. Additional details about the results of the scan can be included in the incident report that would accompany a scan that resulted in the discovery of contraband.

If the offender denies there is contraband, the Deputy will seek assistance from another trained Deputy and the Shift Sergeant to verify that there is an object that appears to be contraband. At that point, the offender will again be approached regarding the existence of what appears to be contraband.

If the offender acknowledges that they do have contraband concealed internally, but that they are not able to immediately remove it, the Deputy will consult with the Shift Sergeant to determine whether the offender will be placed in a dry cell until the item appears or sent to the hospital to determine if the item presents a medical risk by not being immediately removed.

If the offender continues to deny the existence of the suspected contraband, the Sergeant will review the situation and, when appropriate, begin the process to obtain a Body Cavity Search Warrant (see Policy 321/Procedure 321A) Copies of the scan can be used to establish probable cause.

If, when the scan is completed, no indications of contraband were found, the scan can eliminate the need for a strip search.

It is anticipated that all commitments and bookings done at the Work Center will also be scanned. At this time, it is anticipated that this will be accomplished by transporting newly booked offenders to the Downtown jail and then return them to the Work Center. The Lieutenants, in concert with the Transport Deputies and Sergeants, will create the procedure and schedule. It is anticipated that particulars of this procedure may be adjusted over the first 4-8 weeks, as logistics are worked out.

All offenders returning from an unsupervised Temporary Release will be scanned.

In-custody Offenders

All in-custody offenders may be subject to body scanning with the Shift Sergeant's approval. This will include, but not be limited to;

- Offenders returning from court, outside medical appointments, work assignments including in custody work crews and Inmate workers.
- Offenders returning from a professional contact visit, including the attorney visiting booths, 1A and the 1st floor conference room.
- If a Deputy receives credible information that an offender may have obtained contraband and currently has it on their person.

In the event an inmate refuses, and there exists a reasonable suspicion to believe the offender has items on their person that meet the criteria for a strip search (Policies 320, 321, Procedure 320c), the Deputy will consult with the Shift Sergeant to approve the search, as specified in the above policies/procedures.