



RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER



Subject: SEARCH AND SEIZURE		Chapter 1	Number 6	# Pages 20
CALEA Standards: 1.2.4, 1.2.5, 1.2.8a, 1.2.8b, 1.2.8c, 1.2.8d, 70.1.1 VA State Codes: §9.1-101, 15.2-1722.1, 19.2-54, 19.2-56, 19.2-59.1(H), 52-30.2 City Code: § 18-39	Related Orders: 7-6, 8-7	Effective Date: 12/30/2025 Revised By: PD-132 Prv. Rev. Date: 07/07/2023		
<i>If any provision of this General Order conflicts with any collective bargaining article, the collective bargaining agreement shall govern.</i>				
Chief of Police: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish the policy and procedure for search and seizure of a person, place, or thing. This directive also contains guidelines for the completion of the Affidavit for a Search Warrant.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGE

This revision changes the order of the presentation of information, further clarity on the search warrant process, and responsibilities of various units. It also incorporates Virginia Community Policing Act data collection requirements.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of the Richmond Police Department to establish guidelines for lawful searches and seizures as set forth by local, state and federal laws. The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. Officers shall scrupulously observe these constitutional guidelines when conducting searches and should always remain mindful of their lawful purpose.

IV. ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

All employees are expected to fully comply with the guidelines and timelines set forth in this general order. Failure to comply will result in appropriate corrective action. Responsibility rests with the Division Commander to ensure that any violations of policy are investigated and appropriate training, counseling and/or disciplinary action is initiated.

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and

then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

V. DEFINITIONS

- A. HIDTA CASE EXPLORER – A web-based case management criminal intelligence and deconfliction system.
- B. TRACKING DEVICE – An electronic or mechanical device that permits a person to remotely determine or track the position or movement of a person or object which includes devices that store geographic data for subsequent access or analysis and devices that allow for the real-time monitoring of movement.

VI. PROCEDURE

- A. Searches Without a Search Warrant: [CALEA 1.2.4 1.2.5]
 - 1. Consent to Search:
 - a) All personnel shall utilize the Permission to Search Form (PD-83) when a warrantless search is conducted with the consent of an individual who has authority under the law to consent to the search of the premises, building or vehicles, when feasible. The PD-83 is to be signed by the person who granted the permission to search.
 - b) Pursuant to City of Los Angeles v. Patel, 576 U.S. 409 (2015), officers must obtain either consent to search or a warrant to review hotel registries. ***Despite*** City of Richmond Code § 6-26(b) ***requiring that hotel registries “be subject to inspection at any and all reasonable times” to law enforcement performing official duties, officers are still required to either obtain consent or a search warrant before review.***
 - c) The officer may advise the person providing consent for the warrantless search, that ***they have*** the right to deny the search or stop the search at any time. Withdrawal of consent shall not be used as reasonable suspicion or probable cause to prolong the stop or conduct an involuntary search.
 - d) If a co-tenant is physically present and states a refusal to permit the search, the officer shall not conduct the search based on the consent of the other tenant. This only applies if the refusing co-tenant is physically present and expressly refuses consent. Georgia v. Randolph, 547 U.S. 103 (2006).

If the refusing co-tenant is absent at a later time due to a lawful detention or arrest, this would not preclude the officer from obtaining consent from the other co-tenant. Fernandez v. California, 571 U.S. 292 (2014).
 - e) All property seized shall be listed on the back of all copies of the PD-83, and a copy of the completed form shall be left with the consenting individual. In the event that a PD-83 was not utilized, officers are required to list the name and age of the consenting individual as well as all items that were seized in the Incident Based Report (IBR).

f) Distribution of Completed *PD-83* Form:

- (1) Original - *Retained by the investigator assigned to the case and uploaded into the Records Management System (RMS).*
- (2) Copy - Left with the individual who granted the permission to search.

2. Protective Sweep of the Area Within the Suspect's Immediate Control:

Police officers may, whenever they possess an articulable and objectively reasonable belief that a suspect is presently or potentially dangerous, conduct a protective sweep for weapons or persons in the area within the suspect's immediate control. If the suspect moves about, an officer is justified in staying with the individual during the course of the stop and conducting a protective sweep of the areas which come within the suspect's immediate control, even if this action necessitates entry into the suspect's home. This includes furtive movements by an occupant of a vehicle that gives the officer reasonable suspicion the occupant may possess a *weapon*.

3. Warrantless, Nonconsensual Searches of Fire-Damaged Premises: [CALEA 1.2.4]

- a) Warrantless, nonconsensual searches to fire-damaged premises may only be conducted under the following circumstances. Michigan v. Tyler, 436 U.S. 499 (1978):
 - (1) During the official's initial entry to fight a fire;
 - (2) During a reasonable time thereafter to investigate the cause of the blaze after it has been extinguished; and,
 - (3) Where an initial investigation is temporarily interrupted due to adverse conditions such as smoke, steam or darkness, re-entry may be made without a warrant to continue the investigation into the cause of the fire. Re-entry must be promptly made upon the end of the adverse conditions.

4. Inadvertent Discovery of Incriminating Evidence:

Where a police officer, with justification for being on the premises, is not searching for evidence against the accused, but inadvertently comes across incriminating evidence, *the officer* may seize it without a warrant.

5. Search of a Vehicle Based on Probable Cause:

- a) Officers are authorized to search a lawfully stopped vehicle for contraband and/or illegal drugs when officers have probable cause to believe such items are contained in the vehicle. U.S. v. Ross, 456 U.S. 798 (1982).
- b) The scope of a vehicle search based on probable cause is determined by the object of the search and whether the object could be contained in the

item to be searched. “If probable cause justifies the search of the stopped vehicle, it justifies the search of every part of the vehicle and its contents that may conceal the object of the search.” Ross, 456 U.S. at 825. Therefore, unlike a search incident to custodial arrest, a search based on probable cause is not confined to the passenger compartment.

- c) Officers with probable cause to search a vehicle may inspect passengers’ belongings found in the car that are capable of concealing the object of the search. Separate probable cause is not needed to search an item once the officer has probable cause to search the vehicle in its entirety. Wyoming v. Houghton, 526 U.S. 295 (1999).

B. Searches Incident to Arrest:

1. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a warrantless search of a dwelling incident to a lawful custodial arrest is constitutionally confined to the area within the arrestee’s reach at the time of their arrest. A search may be incident to an arrest only if it is substantially contemporaneous with the arrest and is confined to the immediate vicinity of the arrest. Chimel v. California, 395 U.S. 752 (1969).
2. The U.S. Supreme Court has held, additionally, that only in well-delineated situations may a warrantless search of a dwelling take place, and the burden rests upon the Commonwealth to prove an exceptional situation. Those exceptions are as follows:
 - a) Consent to the search;
 - b) Officers responding to an emergency;
 - c) In hot pursuit of a fleeing felon; and,
 - d) To maintain the status quo while a search warrant is sought, i.e. the goods ultimately seized were in the process of destruction or removal.
3. Arrest in Homes and in Third Party Dwellings:
 - a) The Fourth Amendment prohibits police, in the absence of exigent circumstances, from making a warrantless or nonconsensual entry into a suspect’s home for the purpose of effecting a routine felony arrest. Therefore, police cannot enter the home of an accused for the purpose of effecting a felony arrest without having first obtained an arrest warrant and having the warrant in his/her possession. Payton v. N.Y., 445 U.S. 573 (1980).
 - b) Before an officer can enter the suspect’s home pursuant to an arrest warrant, the officer must have a “reasonable belief” that the location to be searched is where the suspect lives and, second, the officer must have a “reasonable belief” that the suspect is actually present at the address listed on the warrant. Payton v. N.Y., 445 U.S. 573 (1980).

- c) In the absence of the consent of the owner of the dwelling or exigent circumstances, a search warrant is required to search for a person named in an arrest warrant on the premises of a third party. Steagald v. U.S., 451 U.S. 204 (1981); Wallace v. King, 626 F.2d 1157 (4th Cir.1980).

4. Protective Sweep in Conjunction with an In-home Arrest:

When officers enter a person's home to arrest that person pursuant to an arrest warrant and officers possess an articulable and objectively reasonable belief that another potentially dangerous person may be located in the home, officers may conduct a limited visual inspection of those areas where a person could be found. The sweep can last no longer than is necessary to dispel the officers' reasonable suspicion and must end when the arrest is completed, and officers leave the premises. Officers may, without reasonable suspicion, also look in closets and other spaces immediately adjoining the area of arrest. Maryland v. Buie, 494 U.S. 325 (1990).

5. Search of the Passenger Compartment of an Automobile Upon the Arrest of the Occupant:

- a) When a police officer has made a lawful custodial arrest of the occupant of an automobile, the officer, as a contemporaneous incident of that custodial arrest, may search the passenger compartment of that automobile when:

- (1) The officer ***has a reasonable basis to believe the vehicle occupant may be able to access the automobile at the time of the search due to the inability to properly restrain the vehicle occupant***; OR,
- (2) ***The officer has a*** reasonable basis to believe that evidence of the crime for which the occupant of the vehicle was arrested might be found in the passenger compartment at the time of the search.

New York v. Belton, 453 U.S. 454 (1981), Arizona v. Gant, 556 U.S. 332 (2009).

- b) The officer may search the passenger compartment incident to the custodial arrest if the occupant is in the vehicle when the officer approaches or if the occupant has recently exited the vehicle and is near the vehicle when the officer approaches, so long as at least one of the above is present and can be articulated by the involved officer. Thornton v. U.S., 541 U.S. 615 (2004), Arizona v. Gant, 556 U.S. 332 (2009).

C. Inventory Searches:

Inventory searches serve caretaking functions and are not designed to uncover evidence of criminal activity. The purpose of the inventory search is to protect the property owner from loss; protect the impounding officer, the Richmond Police Department, and the City of Richmond against false liability claims; and protect the general public from danger (See G.O. 08-07, Inventory, Towing, Seizure, Storage and Abandoned Vehicles).

D. Crime Scene Searches:

[CALEA 1.2.4]

Officers are authorized to secure a crime scene until a search warrant is obtained. Officers may execute a warrantless search at the scene of a crime under the following circumstances:

1. With consent;
2. Contemporaneous to a lawful arrest, the arrestee and the area immediately surrounding the arrestee, if it is likely to contain weapons or evidence;
3. If the location to be searched is open to the public; or,
4. Under exigent circumstances.

E. Searches in Exigent Circumstances:

Officers are authorized to search without a warrant in emergency situations in which circumstances exist that would cause a reasonable person to believe that entry (or other relevant prompt action) is necessary to prevent physical harm to the officer(s) or other persons, the destruction of relevant evidence, the escape of a suspect wanted for a crime of a relatively serious nature, or some other consequence improperly impeding legitimate law enforcement efforts.

[CALEA 1.2.4]

F. *Searches of the Person:*

1. A police officer may detain a person in a public place only when the officer can articulate a reasonable suspicion that the person is committing, has committed or is about to commit a criminal act and once stopped, the officer may inquire of such person their name and address. The police officer may, if *the officer* reasonably believes that such person is armed and dangerous, frisk *the* person for a dangerous weapon, and if such person is found to illegally possess a dangerous weapon, the police officer shall take possession of the same and dispose of it as provided by law.
2. The Pat Down – A pat down (*also known as* a frisk) is a check for weapons on a person or potentially in *an unlocked* container immediately *accessible* to the person, which may contain a weapon.

NOTE: The nature of the item being felt must be immediately apparent from touching the item with an open palm and extended fingers. Squeezing the item with your fingers or palm to discern its identity is not permitted for a pat down.

An officer may conduct a pat down only after they have lawfully stopped the person, or upon consent.

- a) Police officers have a right to pat down only when: 1.) They have already lawfully stopped a person based on a reasonable suspicion that the person was engaged in criminal activity, and 2.) They have a reasonable suspicion to believe that the person is armed and dangerous, i.e., that

either the officer's safety or the safety of others is in danger. Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968).

- b) A pat down is lawful only when the officer:
- (1) Has observed criminally suspicious activity on the part of the person to be frisked;
 - (2) Has lawfully stopped the person based on the officer's reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, and the officer has identified **themselves** as a police officer;
 - (3) Has a reasonable articulable suspicion that the suspect is armed and dangerous; and,
 - (4) Limits **the** frisk for weapons or, [CALEA 1.2.4]
 - (5) Has valid consent of the person being patted down.
- c) Pursuant to VA Code § 15.2-1722.1, data from stop-and-frisks and investigative detentions of a person based on reasonable suspicion will be collected and publicly reported.
- (1) ***Officers will be required to collect data pertaining to stop-and-frisks of a person based on reasonable suspicion and on all other investigatory detentions that do not result in an arrest or the issuance of a summons pursuant to VA Code § 52-30.2.***
 - (2) ***Officers shall input this data utilizing the desktop icon "Police Traffic Stop" or following the link [REDACTED]. This data will be entered prior to the officer clearing from the subject stop or related call, or prior to their end of tour if the officer does not have an MDT or mobile device to utilize during the stop. When clearing from the stop, the officer will utilize the clearing code 45 (along with any other applicable clearing codes) to indicate the completion of the data collection form.***
 - (3) ***Data collected shall include:***
 - i. ***Race, ethnicity, age, gender of the person stopped, and whether the person spoke English;***
 - ii. ***Reason for the stop;***
 - iii. ***Location of the stop;***
 - iv. ***Whether a notification from an automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) system was received for the motor vehicle prior to such stop, and if so, the specific reason for the notification;***
 - v. ***Whether a warning, written citation, or summons was issued,***

or an arrest was made, warning provided, violation charged, or crime charged;

vi. ***Whether the vehicle or any person was searched; and,***

vii. ***Whether the officer used physical force against any person and whether any person used force against any officer.***

3. The Complete Search – A complete search is much more involved than a frisk, such that an officer’s search is not limited to a “pat down” for weapons, but rather an officer may search inside the person’s clothing, including inside any pockets or other clothing compartments, for all contraband. The laws governing this type of search are much broader. This search should be conducted by a police officer of the same sex of the person to be searched. The sex of the person to be searched will be determined by the sex identified on the person’s government-issued identification. [CALEA 1.2.8b]

a) Searches of a person are reasonable when:

- (1) They are based on a properly issued warrant;
- (2) Connected with a full custodial arrest; or,
- (3) Made with the free consent of the person searched.

b) The officer may look for:

- (1) Concealed weapons;
- (2) Evidence which may connect the suspect with a crime; and,
- (3) Objects which may be used as a means of escape. [CALEA 70.1.1]

4. The Strip Search – ***The person subject to the search*** removes or arranges some or all of ***their*** clothing so as to permit a visual inspection of the genitals, buttocks, anus, breasts or undergarments. In most cases, simply arranging some or all of the clothing to permit a visual inspection of the genitals, buttocks, anus, breasts or undergarments constitutes a strip search.

a) When a Strip Search can be conducted:

- (1) Pursuant to a search warrant specifically authorizing a strip search.
- (2) Pursuant to specific consent from the person to conduct a strip search of the person.
- (3) Pursuant to “special justification” for the strip search. Case law shows that the courts will balance the need for the particular search against the invasion of personal rights that the search entails. Courts will consider the scope of the particular intrusion, the manner in which it is conducted, the justification for initiating it, and the place

in which it is conducted. Taylor v. Commonwealth, 28 Va. App. 638 (1998); Hughes v. Commonwealth, 31 Va. App. 447 (2000).

- (4) Supervisory approval has been obtained in addition to the search warrant, consent and/or special justification. [CALEA 1.2.8a, 70.1.1]

b) When a Strip Search Can Not be Conducted:

No person in custodial arrest for a traffic infraction, Class 3 or Class 4 misdemeanor or a violation of a City Ordinance, which is punishable by 30 days or less in jail, shall be strip searched unless there is reasonable cause to believe, on the part of a law enforcement officer authorizing the search, that the individual is concealing a weapon. (VA Code § 19.2-59.1).

c) Procedure to be Followed by Department Personnel: [CALEA 1.2.8b]

- (1) All strip searches must be conducted by a law enforcement officer.
- (2) All strip searches will be conducted in private with only the individual in custodial arrest and the searching officer present. The only exception to this rule will be if the individual being searched may jeopardize the safety of the officer conducting the search.
- (3) Persons of the same sex shall perform all strip searches conducted under this section on the person arrested and on premises where persons not physically conducting the search cannot observe the search. The sex of the person to be searched will be determined by the sex identified on the person's government-issued identification. [CALEA 1.2.8b]
- (4) The officer conducting the search should not touch the individual's private parts. A possible exception would be if the officer conducting the search observes the individual attempt to conceal contraband or a weapon(s).
- (5) The Strip Search Form (PD-98) must be completed by the officer only if the officer requires the person to remove clothing so that the person's genitals, buttocks, anus or breasts are fully exposed to the officer. The *original* copy of the PD-98 is forwarded to the Officer-in-Charge of the affected Division; the officer conducting the search shall retain a copy. [CALEA 1.2.8d]

NOTE: Except for children committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice or confined or detained in a secure local facility for juveniles, no child under the age of 18 shall be strip searched or subjected to a search of any body cavity by a law-enforcement officer, unless the child is in custodial arrest and there is reasonable cause to believe on the part of a law-enforcement officer or jail officer authorizing the search that the child is concealing a weapon. (VA Code § 19.2-59.1(H)) [CALEA 1.2.8c]

d) Where Strip Searches are to be Conducted:

- (1) At Police **Facilities** – searches may be conducted in a bathroom or private office where there is no opportunity for any individual, other than the officer conducting the search, to view the proceedings.
- (2) When made pursuant to the execution of a search warrant, the search shall be conducted on the premises, out of the view of others including other police officers or individuals arrested.

5. The Oral Cavity Search – An inspection of the mouth. [CALEA 1.2.8a, 70.1.1]

An officer may reasonably order an arrestee to disgorge that which the arrestee has within **their** mouth. Force will not be used to extract drugs or evidence from a suspect's mouth. Suspects who are in custody and who have ingested drugs or evidence, or where there is a reasonable suspicion that the in-custody suspect has ingested drugs or evidence, shall be transported by the arresting officer or transporting officer to the hospital (preferably VCU Medical Center) for treatment. If an individual, who is not an arrestee or is a non-custodial arrestee (summons), has or is believed to have ingested drugs or evidence, the officer shall call for the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) to respond for medical treatment. Should the individual leave the scene or refuse medical attention, his/her refusal shall be documented. The officer shall:

Upon examination of the subject by medical personnel, inform the medical personnel of the facts as known by the officer regarding the arrestee's ingestion of the contraband.

- (1) **Officers shall not** advise, instruct, direct, request and/or insinuate to the medical personnel as to any particular medical course of action or outcome or any medical procedure, therapy and /or treatment.
- (2) While medical attention is being administered to a person in custody, **officers shall** remain readily available at the site of the person receiving medical attention.

NOTE: If, at any time, the contents that the officer reasonably believes to be contraband in the arrestee's mouth, stomach, etc., come outside of the arrestee's body the officer shall, to the extent reasonable, collect, document and preserve those contents as evidence.

6. The Full Body Cavity Search – An inspection of the body orifices, internal organs and fluids: [CALEA 1.2.8a]

Searches of body cavities, with the exception of the mouth, will not be conducted by members of the Richmond Police Department. Should visual examination of a suspect during a strip search and/or other information lead an officer to believe that a suspect or arrestee is concealing a weapon, evidence or contraband within a body cavity, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a) Where there exists reasonable and appropriate cause to support a body

cavity search, officers shall apply for a search warrant. [CALEA 1.2.8a]

b) If a search warrant is granted, the subject shall be taken to any of the following medical facilities, where the search will be conducted in a private location by medically qualified personnel:

- VCU Medical Center;
- Retreat Hospital;
- Richmond Community Hospital; or,
- Chippenham Hospital

If medical personnel at any of the above listed medical facilities refuse to perform the body cavity search, the responsible officer may contact any of the other medical facilities listed above to ascertain whether medical personnel at those facilities would be willing to perform the body cavity search and transport the subject to that facility, as necessary.

c) Richmond Police officers shall not arrest or take any other adverse action against medical personnel for refusing to perform a body cavity search of a subject or to order other staff members who refuse to perform a body cavity search.

d) When allowed by medical personnel, an officer of the same sex as the subject receiving the body cavity search shall be present to witness the search and to recover any weapons, evidence or contraband. Should the search be conducted outside of the presence of the officer, proper chain of custody protocol will be followed and documented within the IBR.

[CALEA 1.2.8b]

G. Searches of Convicted Subjects who have an active Fourth Amendment Waiver on File:

1. Pursuant to Virginia law, decided in Anderson v. Commonwealth, 256 Va. 580 (1998), defendants may waive their Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches and seizures pursuant to an agreement with the Commonwealth's *Attorney* and a subsequent court order. *The* Richmond's Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has obtained court orders in which defendants have waived such rights and will continue to do so in the future. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue to send all Fourth Amendment waivers to the Special Investigations Division (SID) Crime Analyst who will enter all such waivers into [REDACTED] as an alert. The waiver form will be attached to the alert.
2. The hard copies of the waivers will be maintained by the SID Crime Analyst. The SID Crime Analyst will ensure that Fourth Amendment waivers are purged according to their expiration date.
3. Officers will *contact* the Warrant Desk to verify that *a* subject has a valid Fourth Amendment waiver on file. The Warrant Desk **MUST** verify that the waiver is valid prior to any warrantless search being conducted.
4. Any officer who encounters a convicted felon who has a valid Fourth

Amendment waiver may search that subject and their personal property, including any vehicle within *their* immediate control, without a warrant or arrest.

5. Officers will document each ~~such~~ stop/search conducted on the basis of a Fourth Amendment waiver by creating a Field Interview Report (FIR) stating the reason for the stop/search *in the narrative*.

6.



[CALEA 1.2.5a]

H. Searches with a Search Warrant:

[CALEA 1.2.4, 1.2.5]

1. The integrity of a valid and legal search warrant must be the prime consideration and it is on this premise that the Department must operate. In many instances, it may be necessary to prolong investigations in order that sufficient facts may be gathered to establish probable cause for search warrants.
2. To obtain a search warrant, a police officer must provide the magistrate or judge with an affidavit that will allow the magistrate or judge to determine the persuasiveness of the facts relied on to show probable cause. Department members shall use the Commonwealth of Virginia affidavit for search warrants.

I. The Affidavit for a Search Warrant:

1. The affidavit must contain the following:

a) The Offense Involved:

The offense must be in relation to the person, place or thing to be searched. The person, place or thing searched for constitutes evidence relative to the commission of the offense. This is a statutory requirement, and its omission may result in the warrant being declared invalid.

b) The Material Facts Constituting Probable Cause for the Issuance of the Search Warrant:

(1) The affidavit should not merely *state* the conclusions of the affiant or that of the informant, but should contain facts on which the magistrate or judge could *draw* an independent conclusion that sufficient probable cause *exists* for a search warrant.

(2) If the affiant is relying on *their* personal *knowledge* of material facts constituting a crime, *the affiant* should state when such observations were made and what *the affiant* observed.

(3) The Allegation of Fact:

For a magistrate or judge to issue a search warrant, the police officer's affidavit must demonstrate a probability of criminal activity through specific facts and observations, not merely conclusions. Probable cause must be established "within the four corners of the affidavit," detailing how, where, what, and why the officer suspects criminal activity. The affidavit must also establish jurisdiction (e.g., City of Richmond). The magistrate or judge must be provided with the observations of the police officer, cooperating citizen, or informant to independently determine whether probable cause exists.

(4) The Use of *Non-Confidential Sources of Information (SOI)* and Establishing Their Reliability:

- a. The officer **must** state the facts to support the officer's conclusion, i.e., how the **SOI** "knows" or "suspects" the individual is violating the law. The reliability of a citizen informer can be adequately established **through independent investigation or corroboration of the information provided.**

NOTE: These types of sources may include law enforcement officers, witnesses, concerned citizens, and victims of crimes.

b. Confidential Sources (**CS**):

(1) The **CS** must allege the facts; and,

(2) The affidavit must show the **CS's** reliability. This may be accomplished **by**:

(a) **Alleging** the informer was an eyewitness and/or participant in the crime;

(b) **Alleging** that the informer is a person of known and proven reliability and has furnished information to law enforcement officers, which has been instrumental in **furthering investigations.**

- c. **Statements made by an SOI against their "Penal Interest" are deemed reliable.**

NOTE: A statement against penal interest is a statement that puts the person making the statement at risk of prosecution.

- (1) Hearsay - The information supplied by any type of informant must be based on **that person's** personal observation and not what **they have** been told, and the

affidavit should allege personal observation of the criminal activity.

NOTE: Refer to General Order 07-06, Informants, when further instruction or procedural reference is needed.

c) Description of the Person, Place or Thing to be Searched:

A search warrant must describe with particularity the place to be searched. A search warrant directed against a multiple occupancy building will be invalidated if it fails to specify the particular sub-unit to be searched, such as the apartment number, room number or floor number and shall describe in detail the location, color and distinguishing characteristics of the property being searched.

d) Description of the Person or Things to be Searched For:

The description should be as specific as possible. However, the police officer conducting the search is not restricted in seizing only those items listed in the search warrant. If the officer comes upon evidence for the crime that the warrant was issued for or evidence of another crime, the officer is entitled to seize it.

NOTE: If the search warrant is for a television or large item, small places, such as jewelry boxes, may not be searched.

J. Petitioning for a Search Warrant:

1. All affidavits shall be reviewed by a supervisor, preferably the police officer's immediate supervisor, prior to ***petitioning*** for the search warrant. The reviewing supervisor is required to sign (signature and code number) and date a copy of the affidavit before the officer takes the affidavit to the judge or magistrate. If unavailable to review and sign the hard copy of the affidavit due to the circumstances, the supervisor may review and approve the affidavit electronically (by e-mail). In such cases, the supervisor's review and approval will be subsequently noted on the file copy.
2. ***The officer petitioning will*** submit the original affidavit and three copies to the ***magistrate or judge***.
3. The affidavit must be signed in front of the Judicial Officer issuing the warrant.
4. The search warrant shall:
 - a) Name the affiant;
 - b) ***State*** the offense in relation to which the search is to be made;
 - c) Name or describe in detail the person, place or thing to be searched (a warrant directed against a multiple-occupancy structure must describe a

- particular sub-unit or specify the name of the occupant);
- d) Describe the property or person to be searched for;
 - e) State the facts that establish probable cause;
 - f) Contain the date and time it was issued; and,
 - g) State the reliability of the information and how it was obtained.
5. The official authorized to issue search warrants shall attach a copy of the affidavit to the search warrant and sign with the date and time of issuance.

K. Notifications and Deconfliction:

- 1. All *narcotics* search warrants shall be entered into the [REDACTED] system for deconfliction.
- 2. Notification of all search warrants shall *be made to* the Special Investigations Division's Narcotics Unit. The Department of Emergency Communications, *Preparedness, and Response (DECPR)* must also be notified of the search warrant location. Notification via telephone call is appropriate.

L. Execution of a Search Warrant:

- 1. *All search warrants that will involve the apprehension of a subject and/or tactical entry of a structure or vehicle require an operational plan to be completed and approved by a supervisor prior to execution.*
- 2. Under Virginia law, the initial entry for abodes only shall be in the daytime hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; unless,
 - a) A judge, or a magistrate if a judge is not available, authorizes the execution of a search warrant at another time for good cause shown by particularized facts in an affidavit.
 - b) Or prior to the issuance of the search warrant, law enforcement officers lawfully entered and secured the place to be searched and remained at such place continuously.
- 3. Under Virginia law, the authority to affect an "immediate" entry stem from exigent circumstances reasonably appearing to the officers at the time the entry is made, and not at the time the warrant is obtained; a magistrate or judge lacks the authority to "command" an "immediate" entry in advance of the entry.
- 4. Pursuant to Virginia Code §19.2-56, the affidavit in support of the search warrant shall be attached to the search warrant and served accordingly.
- 5. A copy of the search warrant and affidavit shall be given to the owner of the place to be searched. If the owner of the place to be searched is not present, a copy of the search warrant and affidavit shall be given to any adult occupant who is present.

6. If the place to be searched is unoccupied by an adult, a copy of the search warrant and affidavit shall be left in a conspicuous place within or affixed to the place to be searched.
7. ***If an officer obtaining a search warrant is concerned about the sensitive nature of the affidavit, the officer should request that a seal order be entered. Sealed search warrants are exempt from the requirement to leave a copy of the affidavit with the search warrant.***

NOTE: This subparagraph shall not apply to affidavits made by means of a voice or videotape recordings.

8. Any search warrant not executed within 15 days after issuance shall be returned to and voided by the official who issued the search warrant. However, such search warrant may be temporarily sealed for a specific period of time by the appropriate court upon application and approval of the Commonwealth's Attorney according to VA Code § 19.2-54.

M. Seizures:

1. What may be seized:
 - a) Weapons or other objects used in the commission of a crime;
 - b) Articles or things for which the sale or possession of is unlawful;
 - c) Stolen property or the fruits of any crime; or,
 - d) Any object or person, including without limitation, documents, books, papers, records or body fluids, constituting evidence of the commission of a crime.
2. List of Property Seized:
 - a) The officer who seizes any property ***pursuant to a search warrant*** shall prepare an inventory ***of the seized property*** that shall be produced before the Circuit Court designated in the warrant. The officer executing the warrant shall endorse the date and time of execution and shall file the warrant with the inventory attached (or a notation that no property was seized) and the accompanying affidavit within three (3) working days after the execution of the search warrant in the Circuit Court Clerk's office. Saturdays, Sundays or any federal or state legal holiday shall not be used in computing the three-day filing period.
3. Records and Handling of Seized Property (Evidence):
 - a) The property to be used as evidence shall be safely kept and thereafter disposed of as provided by law. Any property which is not used for evidence, things stolen or embezzled property, shall be restored to its owner. Those items mentioned in VA Code § 19.2-53 may be burned or

otherwise destroyed as soon as there is no further need for its use unless it is otherwise expressly prohibited by law.

- b) With the consent of the Commonwealth's Attorney, the officer or agency having possession of "money or securities" may retain sufficient amounts necessary to prove the crime of Grand Larceny or any crime requiring a specific amount in value and release the remaining excess monies or securities to the owner with a proper receipt.
- c) The official authorizing the release shall make an appropriate record including designation or copying of serial numbers. This record shall be admissible into evidence in any proceeding, hearing or trial of the case to the same extent as if such monies or securities had been introduced.
- d) The record or receipt shall contain:
 - (1) The name of the financial institution or person from whom such monies or securities were taken;
 - (2) The place from where taken;
 - (3) The name of the accused; and,
 - (4) The name of the arresting officer(s) coming into initial possession of such monies or securities.
- e) The court may, with the consent of the Commonwealth's Attorney, authorize the Clerk of the Circuit Court, upon all appeal rights being exhausted, to deposit such monies or cash in an interest-bearing account.
- f) Any agency seizing property pending forfeiture and final disposition, may do any of the following (Asset Forfeiture):
 - (1) Place the property under constructive seizure by posting notice of seizure for forfeiture on the property or by filing notice of seizure for forfeiture in any appropriate public record relating to property;
 - (2) Remove the property to a storage area for safekeeping or, if the property is a negotiable instrument or money, deposit it in an interest-bearing account;
 - (3) Remove the property to a place designated by the Circuit Court in the county or city wherein the property was seized; or,
 - (4) Provide for another custodian or agency to take custody of the property and remove it to an appropriate location within or not within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court in the county or city where the property was seized or in which the complaint was filed.
- g) A report regarding the type of property subject to forfeiture and its handling and the final disposition of the property shall be filed by the

seizing agency with the Department of Criminal Justice Services in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

N. The Department's Search Warrant Logbooks:

1. Each ***precinct and*** division are responsible for maintaining a Search Warrant Logbook. Police personnel executing search warrants will log ***a copy of each executed*** search warrant into their divisional Search Warrant Logbook within three (3) days after the search warrant is executed.
2. Supervisors overseeing the search warrant will ensure that the hard copy of the search warrant is ***filed in the division logbook*** within ***three (3)*** days.

O. Search Warrants Served in Richmond Originating from Outside Jurisdictions:

1. When an officer serves a warrant originating from an outside jurisdiction, the following procedures shall be followed:

a) Pre-Planned Search Warrant:

- 1) When outside jurisdictions have a pre-planned search warrant to be served in the City of Richmond, it will be the responsibility of the supervisor from the outside agency to contact a Richmond supervisor that corresponds with the unit/division (i.e., Major Crimes, SID, FMT, Crash Team, etc.) of the requesting agency.
- 2) Once the Richmond supervisor has been identified, that supervisor will ensure all procedures are followed, to include the PD-180, Warrant Service/High Risk Operation Assessment, ***and*** Operational Plan (if deemed necessary). The Richmond supervisor will meet with the outside agency's representative and review the search warrant and supporting documentation. The Richmond Police Department supervisor will utilize available Police Department resources (i.e. [REDACTED], etc.) to gather intelligence, determine the appropriate resources/manpower needs and coordinate an effective plan to facilitate the safe execution of the search warrant.

b) Extemporaneous Search Warrant:

- 1) When outside jurisdictions request assistance from members of the Police Department to execute a search warrant within the City of Richmond without prior notice and planning, it will be the responsibility of the on-scene supervisor of the outside agency to contact the Division or Unit that corresponds with the requesting agency's representative (i.e., Major Crimes, SID, FMT, Crash Team, etc.) for assistance. If there is no supervisor from the corresponding unit available to respond, a patrol supervisor will respond to assist with facilitating the safe execution of the search warrant. That supervisor will ensure all procedures are followed, to include the PD-180, Warrant Service/High Risk Operation Assessment, and Operational Plan (if

deemed necessary).

- 2) Based on the supervisor's overall assessment, the supervisor may determine that they are not able to safely execute the search warrant and that an alternate action may be required.
- 3) Once an outside agency's search warrant is executed, an IBR shall be completed documenting the execution of the search warrant, any damages/injuries sustained, all items seized/recovered by the outside agency, and who, with that agency, took possession/custody of the property.

c) Supervisor's Responsibility:

Supervisors will ***deconflict with the Special Investigations Division and*** make notification up the chain of command to the ***Major*** of their respective operation.

d) Exceptions to this Section:

- 1) ***Cell phone, digital device, or electronic search warrants***
- 2) Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- 3) Virginia State Police

P. ***Issuance of Search Warrant for Installation and Use of a Tracking Device:***

1. Use of a tracking device includes the installation, maintenance, and monitoring of a tracking device, but does not include the interception of wire, electronic, or oral communications nor does it include the capture, collection, monitoring, or viewing of images.
2. In order to obtain a search warrant, a police officer must provide the magistrate or judge with an affidavit that will allow the magistrate or judge to determine the persuasiveness of the facts relied on to show probable cause. Department members shall use the Commonwealth of Virginia Affidavit for Search Warrants for Tracking Device. (Form DC-340 [07/12 and 7/14]).
3. The search warrant shall:
 - a) Identify the applicant and identify the law-enforcement agency conducting the investigation.
 - b) Identify the vehicle, container, item or object to which, or on which the tracking device is to be attached, placed, or otherwise installed; the name of the owner or possessor of the vehicle, container, item, or object described. If known, the jurisdictional area in which the vehicle, container, item, or object described is expected to be found.
 - c) Provide material facts constituting the probable cause for the issuance of

the search warrant and alleging substantially the offense in relation to which such tracking device is to be used and showing that probable cause exists. Name the county or city where there is probable cause to believe the offense for which the tracking device is sought has been committed, is being committed, or will be committed.

d) Officers shall complete the installation authorized by the search warrant within 15 days of the issuance of the search warrant.

1) Tracking devices will be managed by members of the Special Investigations Division Technical Support Unit (Tech Unit).

2) Installation of a tracking device shall only be performed by authorized members of the Special Investigations Division.

4. The search warrant authorizes the use of the tracking device from within the Commonwealth to track a person or property for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days from the issuance of the search warrant.

5. Officers shall remove the tracking device as soon as practical, but not later than 10 days after the use of the tracking device has ended. If unable to remove the tracking device as required, the officer shall disable the device.

6. Within 10 days after the use of the tracking device has ended, a copy of the executed search warrant shall be served on the person who was tracked and the person whose property was tracked.

Q. Search Warrant Reporting:

1. ***Incident based reports shall be created and submitted for all search warrants executed on structures and vehicles and entered under the appropriate Search Warrant offense title. Copies of the search warrant and affidavit shall be attached to the report in RMS.***

2. ***All other search warrants shall be annotated in case supplements and attached to the relevant reports in RMS.***

[CALEA 1.2.8c]

VII. FORMS

A. DC-388, Commonwealth of Virginia Affidavit for Search Warrant

B. DC-340, Commonwealth of Virginia Affidavit for Search Warrant for Tracking Device

C. DC-341, Commonwealth of Virginia Search Warrant for Tracking Device

D. PD-83, Permission to Search form (English & Spanish)

E. PD-98, Strip Search form

F. ***PD-180, Warrant Service/High Risk Operation Assessment***

G. IBR