




NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

SUMMARY OF CHANGES
AR 422 – SEARCH AND SEIZURE STANDARDS
Effective 03/20/2026

Description	Page Number
Add NRS searches for incarcerated women	1
Add definitions	1-2
Add PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) standard provisions	Throughout
Update use of inmate to offender	Throughout
Other minor changes have been made in formatting for improved clarity and consistency.	



James E. Dzurenda, Director

3/20/26

Date

This summary of changes is for training record purposes only. You must also consult the Administrative Regulation and/or Manual for proper instructions.

I, _____, acknowledge receipt of this Summary of Changes and understand it is my responsibility to implement into the course of my duties.

Signature

Date



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

**SEARCH AND SEIZURE STANDARDS
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION – 422**

SUPERSEDES: AR 422 (Temporary 05/25/11); AR 422 (Temporary 01/05/12); AR 422 (Temporary 11/03/16); AR 422 (11/16/16)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/20/2026

AUTHORITY: NRS 209.011; NRS 209.131, NRS 209.358; NRS 209.362; U.S.C. § 15601, et seq. and Federal Register 28, Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 115

RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC and Department) is responsible for the implementation of this Administrative Regulation (AR).

The Wardens will ensure that their appropriate assigned subordinate supervisors have read and understand this regulation.

The Associate Wardens will ensure that their appropriate assigned subordinate supervisors have read and understand this regulation.

Supervisors will ensure that their appropriate subordinate staff members have read and understand this regulation.

Designated staff members will know, comply with, and enforce this regulation.

If, and where applicable, offenders will know and comply with this regulation.

422.01 DEFINITIONS

1. Body Cavity Search: an inspection of body cavities which includes touching the recipient personally or with instruments by medical professionals.
2. Clothed Search (pat search): means a pat search in which an individual is not required to remove clothing, with the exception of shoes, jackets, hoodies i.e. loose clothing

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3. Contraband: Any item not permitted by law or expressly prohibited by NDOC or institutional policy.
 4. Exigent circumstances: Means any set of temporary and unforeseen circumstances that require immediate action to combat a threat to the security or order of an institution or facility.
 5. Institutional Search: An unannounced, thorough search of prison areas (grounds, buildings, housing units, offenders) in an effort to uncover any contraband items.
 6. NOTIS: Nevada Offender Tracking Information System or its successor.
 7. Offender: Any person convicted of a crime under the laws of this State and sentenced to imprisonment in the state prison.
 8. Private Location: means an area in an institution or facility in which an offender has a reasonable expectation of privacy, including, without limitation, an area which contains a shower or toilet, a medical examination room or an area in which body cavity searches are conducted.
 9. Probable Cause: When an officer possesses knowledge of specific facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a particular individual(s) is committing, has committed, or is about to commit a criminal act.
 10. Reasonable Suspicion: An objectively justifiable suspicion that is based on specific facts, circumstances that justifies searching a person thought to be involved in criminal activity at the time or is concealing contraband in a particular place to be searched.
 11. State of Undress: A naked or undergarment-clad genitals, pubic area, buttocks or breast of a woman are exposed.
 12. Unclothed Search (strip search): means a visual examination of an individual's unclothed body for weapons, contraband and injuries, and a thorough search of all the individual's clothing while it is not being worn.
 13. Visual Body Cavity Search: means a visual inspection of body cavities which excludes touching the recipient, either personally or with instruments.

422.02 POLICY

Searches of visitors, employees, offenders, offender housing units, and other areas of the facility shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth below and in a manner which will avoid unnecessary force, embarrassment, or indignity to those whose person and/or belongings that are being searched.

422.03 GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING REASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

1. Whenever possible, searches will be conducted in a manner so as not to damage property. Property will be left in or as close to the original state as possible.
2. Unless otherwise dictated by exigent circumstances, searches should be conducted by staff or officers trained in search techniques and procedures.
3. Searches will be conducted within reasonable hours, between 5 AM and 9 PM, unless exigent circumstances require otherwise..
4. Searches shall not be conducted for arbitrary, capricious, oppressive, or unjustified reasons, nor shall they be used for harassment..
5. Searches will be conducted in a manner that causes the least disruption and affords respect and privacy for the property or person searched. Staff will avoid unnecessary force or embarrassment.
6. Whenever practical, and where there is no undue risk to the officers or employees conducting the search, the person or offender to be searched will remain within view of the property being searched.
7. All property seized will be properly tagged and identified according to procedures and all staff involved in the search will prepare an "Incident Report" whenever items are seized.
8. Property discovered during a search which are either evidence of a crime or contraband will be seized and processed for appropriate disposal as required by law or regulation.
9. When practicable, canine search teams, metal detectors, sensors, x-ray equipment and other technological devices are authorized for department use. Mirrors should be used in hard-to-reach spaces and in areas where sharps could be placed causing potential injury to staff.
10. When an institution/facility shakedown (search) is conducted, a record shall be maintained and forwarded to the Warden/Facility Manager. The record will contain, at a minimum, the following:
 - A. Names of all staff participating in the shakedown, identified by the role of each employee; and
 - B. Record of each cell searched, including:
 - 1) Identity of staff who searched the cell:
 - 2) Property removed from each cell;

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- 3) Disposition of property removed from the cell; and
 - 4) Identification of the cell number of location and offenders occupying the cell.

422.04 SEARCHES AT INSTITUTIONS/FACILITIES

1. To facilitate the investigation of criminal behavior or policy violations, in addition to searches based on reasonable suspicion or probable cause, NDOC may also conduct periodic, uniform, or random searches to ensure compliance with department policy and procedures, and to maintain safety and security of the institution, including but not limited to the need to control contraband from entering or remaining with the facility.
2. Posted Signs will be posted at each entrance onto facility grounds and at the entrance to the facility reception areas stating:

ATTENTION: All persons and vehicles subject to search.

**Firearms, weapons, drugs and electronic devices, alcohol and tobacco prohibited.
Violators are subject to prosecution.
NRS 212.140 and NRS 202.2491**

422.05 CLEAR BAGS/CLEAR PLASTIC CONTAINERS/FACTORY SEALED CLEAR CONTAINERS

In order to maintain the safety and security of the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) facilities and to detect and prevent entrance of contraband:

- A. All persons entering shall only possess clear PVC bags and containers (unless otherwise approved by the Warden or Associate Warden).
- B. All food must be in a clear container that can be visually inspected and searched if needed.
- C. Paper bags sacks and sandwich wraps (including wrappers from fast-food restaurants or similar establishments) are prohibited.
- D. Open beverages (including fountain drinks and coffee) shall be in a clear container and are subject to inspection.

422.06 CLOTHED AND UNCLOTHED SEARCHES OF OFFENDERS

1. Offenders are subject to clothed (pat-down) searches, unclothed (strip) search, visual body cavity, intrusive body cavity, and property searches, if necessary, for the safety and security of the institution/facility.

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2. Searches of all offenders will be conducted in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs. Searches of offenders and their property will be conducted by staff trained in conducting searches.
 3. The institution or facility shall not conduct cross-gender unclothed searches or cross-gender visual body cavity searches except in exigent circumstances or when performed by medical practitioners. All unclothed body searches will comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requirements. Refer to AR 494 (Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Diverse Offenders) when conducting unclothed body searches of Transgender or Intersex offenders.
 4. Female correctional officers may perform clothed searches for all offenders regardless of their gender or gender identity.
 5. Male correctional staff are prohibited from conducting an inspection or search of women offenders and in a state of undress in a private location, unless:
 - A. There are extraordinary circumstances; and
 - B. A female correctional staff member, or any female staff member from the institution is present during the inspection or search; and
 - C. Any search or inspection of a woman offender by a male correctional staff under extraordinary circumstances must be reported to a supervisor and incident report generated in NOTIS.
 6. In conjunction with AR 494, Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Diverse Offenders, institutions and facilities will implement procedures for conducting searches of Transgender or Intersex offenders.
 7. Clothed, unclothed and visual body cavity searches may be authorized by the Warden on a routine basis for all offenders participating in certain activities, including but not limited to:
 - A. Returning from a community work pass;
 - B. Transportation runs;
 - C. Transfers;
 - D. Visiting;
 - E. Work details;
 - F. Institutional lockdowns; and