

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL ORDER



BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

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TO: Distribution "A"			RETENTION DATE: Until Rescinded
SUBJECT: <b>Manual Revision – <u>9-110 Searches for Voluntary Transports and Ambulances</u></b>			APPROVED BY:

MP-8806

**Introduction:**

Effective with the issuance of this Special Order, Section 9-110 of the MPD Policy and Procedure Manual shall be added as follows:

**9-110 Searches for Voluntary Transports and Ambulances**  
(xx/xx/xx)

**I. Purpose**

This policy describes requirements for brief searches for weapons when providing voluntary transportation of people in squads, to ensure the safety of members and the people being transported. This policy also covers voluntary transportation in ambulances.

See P&P 9-105 for the specific requirements in conducting weapons pat-downs, and P&P 9-109 for information around other warrantless searches.

**II. Policy**

**A. Voluntary Transportation in Squads**

1. Before allowing an unauthorized person (e.g. victim, witness, person asking for a ride, etc.) to be voluntarily transported in a squad, members shall request consent to conduct a brief search of their person for weapons or dangerous items. When making the request, the member shall:
  - a. Activate their body worn camera (BWC) (P&P 4-223) and explain to the person that the search is necessary for safety purposes and that the person has the right to refuse the search and the transportation.

- b. Explain to the person prior to the search that if the member finds anything illegal, the person may be subject to citation or arrest.
2. If the person does not consent to the search, members shall inform the person that they must provide their own transportation. The person's lack of consent to the search cannot be used as a factor to support reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) or probable cause (PC) (P&P 9-109).
3. If the person consents to the search and will be transported, and has any bags or containers (large purses, backpacks, etc.) that could contain dangerous items, members shall have the bags or containers placed in the trunk of the squad for the transport and shall not search the items.

## **B. Transportation in Ambulances**

1. The fact that a person is being transported in an ambulance cannot be the sole reason for searches or weapons pat-downs. This does not prevent the ambulance personnel from searching a person based on their agency's policy.
2. Members shall not conduct searches or weapons pat-downs based on consent for people who will be transported in an ambulance.
3. If a person will be transported in an ambulance, members shall not conduct a weapons pat-down unless they have RAS that the person is armed and presently dangerous (P&P 9-105), and shall not search the person unless they have PC or another authorized justification for a warrantless search (P&P 9-109).

### Example:

If a person is exhibiting assaultive or violent behavior (which may provide RAS that they are presently dangerous), members may only conduct a weapons pat-down if they have also RAS that the person is armed. This applies regardless of whether the person is being placed on a Transport Hold (P&P 7-803) or will be transported in an ambulance.