



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Corrections

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Warden

RED ONION STATE PRISON

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Inmate Population

**From:** David Anderson, Warden 

**Subject:** Strip Search Procedure Clarifications

**Strip Search** - A complete visual search of the body to detect contraband, which requires a person to remove every article of clothing including wigs, eyeglasses, dentures, etc. as to permit a visual inspection of the person including mouth, breasts, buttocks, and genitalia. This includes a thorough search of all the individual's clothing while it is not being worn.

The following is the step that will be taken when a strip search is conducted for showers and any other out of cell activity:

- 1) Staff will give the inmate a direct order to obey the strip search procedure **one (1) time**. If the inmate does not comply, it will be considered a refusal and the inmate will not be removed from the cell.
- 2) The inmate shall remove all articles of clothing including wigs, dentures, etc. and give them to the corrections officer for

inspection.

- 3) While the inmate is disrobed, the staff shall conduct a visual examination of the inmate's head, hair, mouth, torso, pelvic area, legs and feet.
- 4) The inmate shall be requested to spread their legs; bend over, spread their buttocks, squat and cough, and raise arms, penis, scrotum, and breasts during the visual inspection.
- 5) At no time during the visual search shall the staff touch the inmate or conduct any physical intrusion into the inmate's rectal cavity.
- 6) The inmate shall be allowed to dress immediately after the search.

Trained staff of the same gender as the inmate being searched shall conduct strip searches.

Strip searches of inmates by opposite gender staff may only be conducted when the inmate has an approved Strip Search Deviation or there is an immediate threat to the safe, secure, orderly operation of the facility and there is no other available alternative.