



searches of youths in custody



No touching

This may involve the use of a scanning device, but no touching of you or your clothing.



Minimal touching

Touching of you over the top of your clothing.



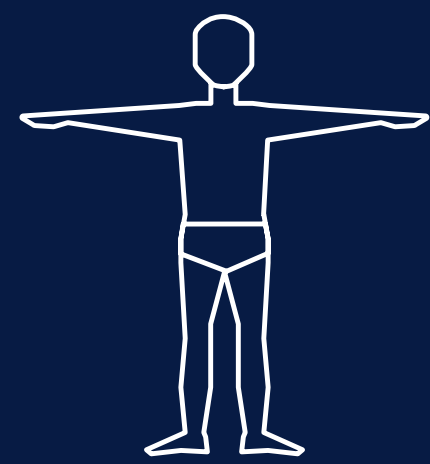
Minimal touching with some clothing removed

Touching of you over the top of your clothing. You may be asked to remove outer layers of clothing such as jacket, hat and shoes.



More than minimal touching

More extensive touching of you or your clothing. You may be asked to remove outer layers of clothing such as jacket, hat and shoes.



Unclothed search

You will be asked to remove clothing, but your body will not be touched unless necessary. Your torso or genitals may be exposed to view or covered only in your underwear.



searches of youths in custody

When can you be searched?

If it is necessary and reasonable, you can be searched by a police officer for one or more of these reasons:

- for the safety of you or other people
- to look for evidence or prevent evidence being lost
- to check for weapons or items that may help you or someone else escape custody
- to check for drugs or things that are not permitted in this facility
- to take your possessions into safekeeping while you are in custody.

What happens before a search?

Before a search is undertaken:

- we will ask you some questions to keep you and others safe
- we will tell you if you will be searched and what type of search we are doing
- you will be asked if you have any items to surrender before the search begins.

If a police officer is going to do an unclothed search, they must tell you and get special authorisation from a Custody Officer or Inspector.

Your privacy will be respected, and you will be searched by a person of the same gender, or your requested gender, wherever possible.

Police are allowed to use reasonable force to conduct a search if it is necessary to do so.

Questions

If you have any questions about the search process, or if you need this information explained to you, please speak to a police officer.

Complaints

You have the right to make a complaint in relation to any search undertaken while you are in custody if you believe it was not conducted lawfully.

Complaints can be made by:

- telling the Custody Officer or Officer in Charge of the police station you are currently in
- completing a Statement of Complaint (download from police.tas.gov.au)
- email the completed statement to: tasmania.police@police.tas.gov.au
- or post it to:
Deputy Commissioner Tasmania Police
GPO Box 308, HOBART TAS 7001

More information

More information about youth searches in custody and the complaints process is available by visiting police.tas.gov.au.