

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Federal Bureau of Prisons



PROGRAM STATEMENT
Searching, Detaining, or Arresting Visitors to Bureau
Grounds and Facilities

Approved by	 William K. Marshall III Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons
DPI	CPD
Number	5510.16
Date	September 3, 2026

Summary of Changes

<i>Program Statement Rescinded:</i> ▪ 5510.15, Searching, Detaining, or Arresting Visitors to Bureau Grounds and Facilities (7/17/2013)
<i>Changes:</i> ▪ Adds Section regarding the Central Violation Bureau (CVB) Ticketing Program.

1. **§ 511.10 Purpose and scope.**

(a) This subpart facilitates our legal obligations to ensure the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) facilities, and protect the public. These goals are furthered by carefully managing non-inmates, the objects they bring, and their activities, while inside a Bureau facility or upon the grounds of any Bureau facility (Bureau grounds).

(b) **Purpose.** This subpart covers:

(1) Searching non-inmates and their belongings (for example, bags, boxes, vehicles, containers in vehicles, jackets or coats, etc.) to prevent prohibited objects from entering a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds;

(2) Authorizing, denying, and/or terminating a non-inmate's presence inside a Bureau facility or upon Bureau grounds; and

(3) Authorizing Bureau staff to remove from inside a Bureau facility or upon Bureau grounds, and possibly arrest and detain, non-inmates suspected of engaging in prohibited

activity.

(c) ***Scope/Application.*** This subpart applies to all persons who wish to enter, or are present inside a Bureau facility or upon Bureau grounds, other than inmates in Bureau custody. This subpart applies at all Bureau facilities and Bureau grounds, including administrative offices.

This program statement provides staff procedures and guidance for searching inmate visitors, both social and legal, official visitors, contractors, and volunteers entering Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) grounds and facilities, to maintain the safety, security, and orderly operation of those facilities, and protect the public.

This policy also provides staff procedures and guidance for detaining and arresting visitors pursuant to their Bureau statutory arrest authority, 18 U.S.C. § 3050, and involving federal local and local law enforcement agencies in detention and arrest situations.

a. **Program Objectives.**

- Provide clear notification of the Bureau's search authority by posting notices at entrances to Bureau grounds and facilities.
- Instruct Bureau staff on appropriate circumstances and methods for conducting authorized searches.
- Prevent visitors entering Bureau grounds and facilities from conducting prohibited activities or possessing prohibited objects, by conducting authorized searches.
- Ensure that any detentions or arrests by Bureau staff are pursuant to statutory authority and coordinated with local and Federal law enforcement agencies.

b. **Institution Supplement.** None.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

a. **§ 511.11 Prohibited activities.**

(a) “Prohibited activities” include any activities that could jeopardize the Bureau's ability to ensure the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, and protect the public, whether or not such activities are criminal in nature.

(b) Examples of “prohibited activities” include, but are not limited to: Introducing, or attempting to introduce, prohibited objects into a Bureau facility or upon Bureau grounds; assisting an escape; and any other conduct that violates criminal laws or is prohibited by federal regulations or Bureau policies.

b. § 511.12 **Prohibited objects.**

(a) “Prohibited objects,” as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1791(d)(1), include any objects that could jeopardize the Bureau's ability to ensure the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, and protect the public.

(b) Examples of “prohibited objects” include, but are not limited to, the following items and their related paraphernalia: Weapons; explosives; drugs; intoxicants; currency; cameras of any type; recording equipment; telephones; radios; pagers; electronic devices; and any other objects that violate criminal laws or are prohibited by Federal regulations or Bureau policies.

18 U.S.C. § 1791 criminalizes providing, or attempting to provide, inmates with “prohibited objects.” Visitors providing, or attempting to provide, “prohibited objects” to inmates are subject to criminal prosecution.

Weapons are prohibited from being stored in vehicles on Bureau grounds, except as otherwise authorized by Bureau policy. The term “weapons” includes “firearm,” “ammunition,” and “destructive device,” as defined below:

- **Firearm.** Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of such weapon; any firearm muffler or silencer; or any destructive device.
- **Ammunition.** Cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or propellant powder for use in a firearm.
- **Destructive device.** Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket with a propellant charge, missile, mine, or device similar to any of the devices described. This includes any type of weapon, under any name, that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant. This also included is any combination of parts designed or intended to convert a device into a destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

c. **Contraband.** Material prohibited by law, or by regulation, or material that can reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or adversely affect the security, safety, or good order of the institution, as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 500.1(h).

d. **Dangerous Contraband.** Any drug, alcohol, narcotic, illicit drug, and other intoxicating substance or controlled dangerous substance; any firearm, weapon, explosive, or any lethal or poisonous gas; or any other substance or object designed or used to kill, injure, or disable (including electrical shock devices). Tobacco products and paraphernalia are considered dangerous contraband due to their potential value to inmates who are prohibited from using them in facilities.

e. **Informant.** An individual (inmate or non-inmate) who provides staff with information about the commission of an offense, prohibited activity (past, current, or planned), prohibited object(s), or other information. The informant's reliability may be determined by a record of past reliability or by other factors. To the extent practicable, staff must attempt to independently verify and corroborate the information received.

3. NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO SEARCH VISITORS

§ 511.13 Searches before entering, or while inside, a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds.

Bureau staff may search you and your belongings (for example, bags, boxes, vehicles, containers in vehicles, jackets or coats, etc.) before entering, or while inside, any Bureau facilities or Bureau grounds, to keep out prohibited objects.

§ 511.14 Notification of possible search.

We display conspicuous notices at the entrance to all Bureau facilities, informing all non-inmates that they, and their belongings, are subject to search before entering, or while inside, Bureau facilities or grounds. Furthermore, these regulations and Bureau national and local policies provide additional notice that you and your belongings may be searched before entering, or while inside, Bureau facilities or grounds. By entering or attempting to enter a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds, non-inmates consent to being searched in accordance with these regulations and Bureau policy.

An easily readable sign must be posted at all entrances to Bureau facilities. The sign must read as follows, in both English and Spanish:

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS: CONSENT TO SEARCH

Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) staff may search you and your belongings (bags, boxes, vehicles, containers in vehicles, jackets, coats, etc.) before you enter, or while you are on or inside, Bureau grounds or facilities.

Consent to Search Implied. *By entering or attempting to enter Bureau grounds or facilities, you consent to being searched in accordance with Bureau policy and Federal Regulations in volume*

28 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 511. If you refuse to be searched, you may be prohibited from entering Bureau grounds or facilities.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS: PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTS

You are prohibited from engaging in prohibited activities or possessing prohibited objects on Bureau grounds, or in Bureau facilities, without the knowledge and consent of the Warden. Violators may be detained or arrested for possible criminal prosecution, either by Bureau staff, or local or Federal law enforcement authorities.

Prohibited Activities include any activities that could jeopardize the Bureau's ability to ensure the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, and protect the public, including, but not limited to, violations of Titles 18 and 21 of the United States Code, Federal regulations, or Bureau policies.

Prohibited Objects include, but are not limited to, weapons; explosives; drugs; intoxicants; currency; cameras of any type; recording equipment; telephones; radios; pagers; electronic devices; and any other objects that violate criminal laws or are prohibited by Federal regulations or Bureau policies.

A shorter notice must be posted at all entrances to Bureau grounds. It must be printed in large, readable print, in both English and Spanish, and read as follows:

NOTICE – All persons entering this Federal property are subject to a search of their person and belongings (bags, boxes, vehicles, containers in vehicles, jackets, coats, etc.).

4. § 511.15 When searches will be conducted.

You and your belongings may be searched, either randomly or based on reasonable suspicion, before entering, or while inside, a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds, as follows:

Visitors refusing to submit to or comply with authorized search procedures will be denied entry to Bureau grounds and facilities, or required to leave, in accordance with Section 7 of this program statement.

Depending on the circumstances, such visitors may also be detained or arrested, either by Bureau staff or local or federal law enforcement authorities, in accordance with Section 8 of this program statement.

(a) ***Random Searches.*** This type of search may occur at any time, and is not based on any particular suspicion that a non-inmate is attempting to bring a prohibited object into a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds.

(1) Random searches must be impartial and not discriminate among non-inmates on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, or sex.

(2) Non-inmates will be given the option of either consenting to random searches as a condition of entry, or refusing such searches and leaving Bureau grounds. However, if a non-inmate refuses to submit to a random search and expresses an intent to leave Bureau grounds, he or she may still be required to be searched if “reasonable suspicion” exists as described in paragraph (b) of this section.

Procedures for managing persons who refuse to submit to authorized searches, including persons attempting to leave Bureau facilities and grounds, are found in Sections 7 and 8 of this program statement.

Random selection of visitors for searching must be impartial and non-discriminatory. The concept of a random selection includes either searching all visitors entering at a given time or searching visitors according to a predetermined selection method, detailed below. Staff may not randomly select visitors to be searched by any other method, or search visitors out of the predetermined random selection order without reasonable suspicion and shift supervisor approval, as detailed below.

A random selection method must be established and documented each day before searching visitors entering Bureau grounds and facilities. Different random selection methods may be implemented for different types of visitors (i.e., inmate visitors, official visitors, contractors, or volunteers). The shift supervisor ensures appropriate random selection methods are implemented each day.

The random selection method on a given day may be different after considering all relevant factors, including the:

- type of search(es) being performed (e.g., electronic or pat searches of visitors, or searches of belongings or vehicles),
- day and time searches occur (e.g., holidays, staffing levels),
- number of visitors to be searched (e.g., small number of individuals or large group[s]), and
- purpose for which visitors are entering the Bureau grounds or facility (e.g., inmate visitors, official visitors, contractors, volunteers).

Except when “all visitors” is the random selection method, the recommended predetermined selection methods include but are not limited to the following, using numbers between one and 10:

- every third visitor
- search four, skip two

- Search two, skip four, search three, skip four

Staff may not search visitors out of the predetermined random selection order unless reasonable suspicion indicates the visitor's possible involvement with prohibited activities or objects. The shift supervisor's approval is required to search visitors out of random order. Staff must document all such searches (i.e., visitor name, date, information forming basis of reasonable suspicion, search results, staff performing searches) as prescribed in Section 4b(2) of this program statement.

(b) *Reasonable Suspicion Searches.* Notwithstanding staff authority to conduct random searches, staff may also conduct *reasonable suspicion* searches to ensure the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, and protect the public. "Reasonable suspicion" exists if a staff member knows of facts and circumstances that warrant rational inferences by a person with correctional experience that a non-inmate may be engaged in, attempting, or about to engage in, criminal or other prohibited activity.

(1) Reasonable Suspicion Required. A reasonable suspicion exists if the facts and circumstances known to a staff member warrant rational inferences by a person with correctional experience that a person is engaged in, attempting, or about to engage in criminal or other prohibited activities, including possession of prohibited objects.

Staff must be able to describe the subject's specific behavior(s) and other information supporting the inference of reasonable suspicion. Staff should immediately consult with the shift supervisor when considering whether an additional search is justified based on reasonable suspicion. The shift supervisor and staff member review the information and circumstances and decide whether the situation warrants referral to the Warden.

The Warden's authorization is required when conducting visual searches of persons based on reasonable suspicion. Only the shift supervisor's authorization is required to pat search a visitor out of the established random selection order.

A reasonable suspicion may be based on:

- observations by staff;
- reliable information, even if confidential;
- a positive reading by a metal detector or other electronic device; or
- finding contraband or evidence of contraband during the search of a visitor's belongings.

Anonymous information cannot be the basis for reasonable suspicion without reliable corroboration.

“Hunches,” “gut feelings,” or “mere suspicion” do not meet the reasonable suspicion standard. However, they support continued observation, investigation, and questioning that may provide information needed to meet the reasonable suspicion standard.

(2) **Documented Searches.** When a visual search is performed based on reasonable suspicion, or when a visitor is searched out of established random order, a logbook entry must indicate:

- date, time, and place the search is conducted;
- persons involved (person being searched, staff conducting search, witnesses, if any);
- circumstances justifying the search;
- search results; and
- action taken, if any.

If the search was based on information from a confidential informant, a memo must be sent to the Special Investigative Supervisor, including the information provided, how the informant found out the information, and how staff decided the information was reliable.

(3) **Reasonable Suspicion Examples.** Examples of situations where reasonable suspicion may exist include:

- **Observed Suspicious Behavior.** Staff may directly observe behavior that suggests involvement with prohibited activities or objects and meets the reasonable suspicion standard. For example, the visitor may attempt to place themselves in a processing order that would result in no random searching or may be highly nervous during questioning.
- **Inmate Suspect List.** Intelligence investigations may provide enough information to meet the reasonable suspicion standard. Intelligence sources include monitored telephone calls, confidential informants, mail monitoring, financial transactions, urine surveillance, etc. Intelligence office staff provide the shift supervisor a list of inmates for whom information exists that may justify searching their visitors out of random order.
- **Inmate Visitors Accompanying Another Visitor Found Engaging or Attempting to Engage in Prohibited Activities.** If an inmate visitor is engaged in prohibited activities or possesses prohibited objects and is accompanied by other visitors requesting to visit the same inmate, reasonable suspicion may exist to justify searching those other visitors.

5. AUTHORIZED SEARCH METHODS

Staff are prohibited from using search methods not authorized by this or another specific Bureau policy.

Visitors using assistance devices (wheelchairs, prosthetics, etc.) must still be searched per this policy, insofar as practicable. Specific situations may require alternative security devices,

including a hand-held metal detector or ion spectrometry device, to examine the assistance device.

§ 511.16 How searches will be conducted.

You may be searched by any of the following methods before entering, or while inside, a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds:

(a) *Electronically.*

(1) You and your belongings may be electronically searched for the presence of contraband, either randomly or upon reasonable suspicion.

(2) Examples of electronic searches include, but are not limited to, metal detectors and ion spectrometry devices.

The shift supervisor must ensure electronic searching devices are tested daily to ensure proper operation. Staff operating electronic search devices must be properly trained and certified. Procedures for performing electronic searches of Bureau staff are detailed in the Program Statement **Staff Entrance and Search Procedures**.

Metal detection device alarm tolerance levels must be set to effectively identify metallic contraband (e.g., weapons). Test results must be recorded in a log. Alarm tolerances for electronic search devices used on visitors must be synchronized within the same facility.

Visitors failing to clear a walk-through metal detector must be searched using a hand-held metal detector. Failure to clear the hand-held metal detector may qualify as reasonable suspicion to perform a further pat or visual search.

Some situations may not be remedied by a pat search, thus requiring a limited visual search. For example, a concealed medical device (e.g., knee brace under clothing, or insulin delivery system) may trigger the walk-through and hand-held metal detectors. In such cases, a limited visual search will ordinarily be required to confirm the device's presence and qualification as a permitted object. Similarly, some items of clothing (e.g., underwire bra) may trigger the metal detectors, thus requiring a limited visual search for the same reason. In both cases, it is important a limited visual search always be performed discreetly, in a private area away from others, and by staff members of the same sex as the visitor being searched. Visual searches conducted by staff members of the opposite sex are only permitted in emergency situations with the Warden's authorization. The situations described above do not rise to the level of such an emergency, but rather simply may cause a processing delay until a same-sex staff member and Warden's authorization are available.

X-ray screening and ion spectrometry devices may be used routinely, or in addition to visual searching of personal containers and belongings.

See the Program Statement **Ion Spectrometry Device Program** for procedures regarding use of the ion spectrometry device.

(b) *Pat Search.*

(1) You and your belongings may be pat searched either randomly or upon reasonable suspicion.

(2) A pat search of your person or belongings involves a staff member pressing his/her hands on your outer clothing, or the outer surface of your belongings, to determine whether prohibited objects are present.

(3) Whenever possible, pat searches of your person will be performed by staff members of the same sex. Pat searches may be conducted by staff members of the opposite sex only in emergency situations with the Warden's authorization.

Except in emergencies, pat searches of visitors must be conducted by staff of the same sex as the visitor being searched. Where possible, pat searches should be conducted out of the view of other visitors and inmates. Where possible, privacy screens near the general processing area for more detailed searches should be utilized.

(1) **Religious Headwear.** Religious headwear is not considered part of a visitor's belongings, but rather their person. Random pat searches should not ordinarily include removal and inspection of religious headwear. Except in emergencies, Warden authorization is required before staff pat or visually search religious headwear.

Bureau policy does not require the higher degree of "reasonable suspicion" before searching religious headwear. Such searches may occur with the Warden's authorization after considering the factors listed below. Searches of religious headwear should be conducted out of the view of other visitors and inmates.

Before approving a pat or visual search of religious headwear, the Warden must carefully consider whether it is necessary and appropriate. Specific factors to consider include:

- reason for the visitor's presence in the facility (e.g., inmate visitor or contract chaplain),
- whether the visitor and headwear cleared a metal detector or other electronic searching device,
- the credentials of the visitor,
- the visitor's relationship to the inmate, and

- any additional relevant information.

Pat or visual searches of religious headwear must be documented in the same manner as reasonable suspicion searches, in accordance with Section 4b(2) of this program statement.

Religious headwear that obscures a visitor's face must be removed sufficiently to reveal the face for identification upon entering and leaving facilities and does not require the heightened conditions described above or documentation. In these cases, the entire headwear need not be removed if partial removal will reveal the face for identification.

(c) **Visual Search.** You and your belongings may be visually searched as follows:

(1) **Person.**

(i) A visual search of your person involves removing all articles of clothing, including religious headwear, to allow a visual (non-tactile) inspection of your body surfaces and cavities.

(ii) Visual searches of your person must always be authorized by the Warden or his/her designee and based on reasonable suspicion; random visual searches are prohibited.

(iii) When authorized, visual searches will be performed discreetly, in a private area away from others, and by staff members of the same sex as the non-inmate being searched. Visual searches may be conducted by staff members of the opposite sex in emergency situations with the Warden's authorization.

(iv) Body cavity (tactile) searches of non-inmates are prohibited.

(2) **Belongings.** A visual search of your belongings involves opening and exposing all contents for visual and manual inspection, and may be done either as part of a random search or with reasonable suspicion.

(1) **Visual Searches of Persons.** Visual searches of persons may only be conducted when authorized by the Warden upon reasonable suspicion that the subject is engaged, or attempting to engage, in prohibited activities, including possession of prohibited objects.

Visual searches must be conducted out of the view of others, in areas that can be secured from unexpected entry.

Except for emergencies, as authorized by the Warden, visual searches must be conducted by staff of the same sex as the person being searched.

The special concerns in searching religious headwear apply to visual searches of those items as well.

(2) **Visual Searches of Belongings.** Visual searches of personal belongings may be conducted randomly, as defined in Section 4a of this program statement. They may be done with an x-ray screening device. Visual searches of belongings are conducted as follows:

- Belongings and contents should not be handled carelessly, or in a manner that attracts unnecessary attention by others in the area.
- Staff should not make unnecessary or inappropriate comments regarding visitors' belongings that might cause embarrassment.
- All containers (e.g., purses, backpacks, and medication [prescription or over-the-counter]) must be opened and inspected.

(3) **Visual Searches of Vehicles.** Visual searches of visitors' vehicles may be conducted randomly, as defined in Section 4a of this program statement, as follows:

- A minimum of two staff are required for a vehicle search.
- The driver of the vehicle must be present (if reasonably available), at least 20 feet away from the vehicle, under direct supervision of one staff member.
- The other staff member will visually search areas of the car that are reasonably accessible – engine compartment, under seats, interior compartments, trunks, and inside any containers in the vehicle.
- Keys for locked compartments or containers must be provided to staff who unlock them rather than allowing the driver to do so. Refusal to provide keys is a refusal to submit to the search.
- Staff may not pry, force, or break open any areas to obtain access.

(d) *Drug Testing.*

(1) You may be tested for use of intoxicating substances by any currently reliable testing method, including, but not limited to, breathalyzers and urinalysis.

(2) Drug testing must always be authorized by the Warden or his/her designee and must be based on reasonable suspicion that you are under the influence of an intoxicating substance upon entering, or while inside, a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds.

(3) Searches of this type will always be performed discreetly, in a private area away from others, and by staff members adequately trained to perform the test. Whenever possible, urinalysis tests will be conducted by staff members of the same sex as the non-inmate being tested. Urinalysis tests may be conducted by staff members of the opposite sex only in emergency situations with the Warden's authorization.

Visitors intoxicated by alcohol or drugs can seriously jeopardize the safety, security, and orderly operation of facilities and threaten public safety. Their presence cannot be permitted.

Visitors intoxicated by any substance may be denied entry even if the source of the behavior is claimed to be authorized medication. Identification of the specific drug or chemical is not necessary to disallow entry.

Drug testing can only occur when authorized by the Warden upon reasonable suspicion that the visitor is currently under the influence of a drug, and that such influence jeopardizes the safety, security, or orderly operation of the facility, or threatens public safety. Staff conducting drug tests must be properly trained and certified.

For the purposes of this program statement a “drug” includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, narcotics, illicit drugs, and any other intoxicating substance.

Drug testing is conducted as follows:

- staff must directly supervise and observe the specimen collection and
- urine specimen collection must occur in a sex-appropriate restroom or private medical exam area, directly supervised by staff of the same sex as the visitor being tested.

6. SEARCH PROCEDURES

Procedures in this Section apply to searching inmate visitors, both social and legal, official visitors, contractors, and volunteers, upon entering Bureau grounds or facilities. Exceptions require the Warden’s authorization and may not exceed limits created by the applicable Federal Regulations.

Persons refusing to submit to or comply with authorized Bureau search procedures will be denied entry or required to leave. Depending on the circumstances, such persons may be detained or arrested, either by Bureau staff or by local or federal law enforcement authorities, after following the procedures found in Sections 7 and 8 of this program statement.

a. **Search Procedures.** Inmate visitors, both social and legal, official visitors, contractors, and volunteers, must be searched as follows:

(1) **Random Electronic Searches.** All visitors and their property/belongings will be randomly searched by electronic means (e.g., walk-through or hand-held metal detector, ion spectrometry devices, x-ray screening for personal containers and belongings).

At LOW security and higher facilities (including Administrative facilities), all visitors are required to clear a metal detector before entering. Alternate random selection methods are not used for this search requirement.

At MIN security facilities, random electronic searches may be conducted as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Warden or camp administrator.

(2) **Random Pat Searches.** All visitors are randomly pat searched according to a daily random method determined by following procedures in Section 4a of this program statement.

Contractors, volunteers, and inmates' attorneys are not exempt from pat searches according to the established daily random method. Official visitors who will be under staff supervision and escort while visiting the institution may be exempted by the Warden from pat searches according to the established daily random method (e.g., judges, legislators, executive branch officials).

(3) **Random Visual Searches of Belongings.** At LOW security and higher facilities (including Administrative facilities), all visitors' belongings must be visually searched. These searches may be done by an x-ray screening device. Alternative random selection methods are not used for this search requirement.

At MIN security facilities, random visual searches of belongings may be conducted as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Warden or camp administrator.

Staff should visually search legal materials only to determine their qualification as legal materials and the absence of prohibited objects but should not read the contents in detail. Visitors' vehicles should also periodically receive random visual searches per procedures in Section 4a of this program statement.

(4) **Reasonable Suspicion Visual Searches of Persons.** Visual searches of persons may only be conducted when authorized by the Warden upon reasonable suspicion that such person is engaged, or attempting to engage, in prohibited activities, which may include possession of prohibited objects.

(5) **Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing.** Drug testing visitors must always be authorized by the Warden, based on reasonable suspicion the visitor is under the influence of an intoxicating substance while on Bureau grounds or in a facility.

(6) **Searches by Outside Law Enforcement.** Searches of visitors by local or federal law enforcement authorities may occur as authorized by law.

7. DENIAL OF ENTRY

§ 511.17 When a non-inmate will be denied entry to or required to leave a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds.

At the Warden's, or his/her designee's, discretion, and based on this subpart, you may be denied entry to, or required to leave, a Bureau facility or Bureau grounds if:

- (a) You refuse to be searched under this subpart; or
- (b) There is reasonable suspicion that you may be engaged in, attempting, or about to engage in, prohibited activity that jeopardizes the Bureau's ability to ensure the safety, security, and orderly operation of its facilities, or protect the public. "Reasonable suspicion," for this purpose, may be based on the results of a search conducted under this subpart, or any other reliable information.

Persons refusing to submit to or comply with authorized Bureau search procedures will be denied entry to Bureau grounds and facilities or required to leave. Depending on circumstances, such persons may be detained or arrested, either by Bureau staff, or by local or federal law enforcement authorities. Warden authorization is required before taking any of these actions.

Upon learning a person refuses to submit to or comply with an authorized search procedure, staff conducting the search must inform the person of the potential consequences. Staff may not use force to require persons to submit to searches unless there is evidence of an imminent threat of serious personal injury, or other result that imminently jeopardizes the safety, security, or orderly operation of the facility, or threatens public safety.

For procedures for limiting or terminating an inmate visit based on the result of searching visitors, or their refusal to submit to authorized searches, refer to the Program Statement **Visiting Regulations**.

8. ARRESTING/DETAINING VISITORS

§ 511.18 When Bureau staff can arrest and detain a non-inmate.

- (a) You may be arrested and detained by Bureau staff anytime there is probable cause indicating that you have violated or attempted to violate applicable criminal laws while at a Bureau facility, as authorized by 18 U.S.C. 3050.
- (b) "Probable cause" exists when specific facts and circumstances lead a reasonably cautious person (not necessarily a law enforcement officer) to believe a violation of criminal law has

occurred, and warrants consideration for prosecution.

(c) Non-inmates arrested by Bureau staff under this regulation will be physically secured, using minimally necessary force and restraints, in a private area of the facility away from others. Appropriate law enforcement will be immediately summoned to investigate the incident, secure evidence, and commence criminal prosecution.

a. **Probable Cause.** Staff may arrest a person only when there is probable cause to believe that the person has engaged in, or attempted to engage in, a violation of federal criminal law(s) for which Bureau staff are authorized to make arrests.

For the purposes of this program statement, “probable cause” exists when specific facts and circumstances lead a reasonably cautious person (not necessarily a law enforcement officer) to believe a violation of criminal law has occurred and warrants consideration for prosecution. Probable cause may be based on information from a reliable informant.

Neither reasonable nor mere suspicion are sufficient standards by which staff may make arrests. Probable cause is a higher standard than both. The existence of reasonable or mere suspicion warrants taking action to neutralize or “freeze” the situation to allow further investigation, questioning, and development. Staff in these circumstances may detain persons for short periods without formally arresting them.

b. **Detaining a Person.** A person may be detained pending further investigation, or while staff await advice from, or arrival of, law enforcement officials, to confirm or dispel a suspicion that the individual may have committed a criminal offense, or engaged in prohibited activities, including possession of prohibited objects.

Staff should carefully consider whether detention of a person under this section is necessary. A key consideration is whether detention is necessary to avoid or ensure criminal prosecution of an event that threatens the safety, security, or orderly operation of the facility, or public safety.

For example, staff may elect to detain a person who is suspected of assaulting a staff member, in which case the person may be held for a reasonable period, pending notification of, consultation with, and arrival of law enforcement officials.

An individual should not ordinarily be detained for conduct that poses little or no threat to the safety, security, or orderly operation of the facility, or public safety. For example, if a person is observed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and makes no apparent effort to bring alcohol or drugs into the facility, staff ordinarily would not detain them, although they have authority to do so. Staff have the option of advising law enforcement officials of this situation, who will then decide whether they wish to stop the individual when departing Bureau grounds.

When a person is detained, staff should write down appropriate information (e.g., name, description, license number, circumstances warranting referral) and provide it to law enforcement officials when they arrive.

Bureau legal staff must be consulted regarding any individual detained in lieu of arrest for over two hours. Bureau legal staff should also be consulted when staff have questions about detaining an individual.

c. **Arresting a Person.** Bureau staff may arrest a person only when there is probable cause to believe that the person has violated federal criminal laws for which Bureau staff are authorized to make arrests. For example, staff may arrest a person when there is probable cause to believe that such person is attempting to assist an escape, facilitate a disturbance, or introduce dangerous contraband.

Staff's legal authority for arresting a visitor or other person is established per 18 U.S.C. § 3050, which authorizes Bureau staff (not including U.S. Public Health Service officers detailed to the Bureau) to make an arrest:

(1) On or off Bureau premises, without warrant, for violation of the following provisions, regardless of where the violation may occur:

- **18 U.S.C. § 111 – Assaulting Officers.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest without warrant any person who forcibly assaults, opposes, resists, impedes, intimidates, or interferes with a staff member of any federal institution while engaged in or on account of the performance of official duties.
- **18 U.S.C. § 751 – Escape of Prisoner in Custody of Institution or Officer.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest an inmate who is attempting to escape or who is on escape status. The escapee should be returned to a federal institution as soon as possible, but may be temporarily detained by local authorities. Staff observing an escape should not attempt an apprehension without assistance, which may be obtained through the local institution or any law enforcement agency. The Bureau is to be notified of any apprehension and site of detention as soon as practicable.
- **18 U.S.C. § 752 – Instigating or Assisting Escape.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest any individual who is actively instigating or assisting an inmate in an immediate escape from custody. This authority does not extend to individuals suspected of this activity and is limited to instances when the individual(s) is observed in actively assisting an escape from immediate custody, or the individual's role as an instigator is such that there is probable cause to believe that continued instigation could lead to an attempt to escape. Suspicion of such activity and arrests resulting from illegal acts described in this section are reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials.
- **28 U.S.C. § 1826(c) – Escape of Recalcitrant Witness.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest any individual who escapes or attempts to escape from the custody of any

facility or from any place in which or to which he is confined pursuant to this section or section 4243 of title 18, or whoever rescues or attempts to rescue or instigates, aids, or assists the escape or attempt to escape of such a person.

(2) On Bureau premises or reservation land of a penal, detention, or correctional facility, without warrant, for violation of the following provisions:

- **18 U.S.C. § 661 – Theft.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest any person who, on Bureau premises or reservation land, takes and carries away, with intent to steal or purloin, any personal property of another.
- **18 U.S.C. § 1361 – Depredation of Property.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest on Bureau premises or reservation land any person who willfully injures or commits any depredation against any property of the United States, or of any department or agency thereof.
- **18 U.S.C. § 1363 – Destruction of Property.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest on Bureau premises or reservation land any person who willfully and maliciously destroys or injures, or attempts to destroy or injure, any building, structure, machinery, or building materials.
- **18 U.S.C. § 1791 – Providing or Possessing Contraband in Prison.** A Bureau staff member has the authority to arrest an individual who provides, or attempts to provide, contraband to an inmate, or who is introducing or attempting to introduce contraband into a federal institution, although in practice an arrest ordinarily occurs only when dangerous contraband is involved. To effect an arrest under 18 U.S.C. § 1791, there must be a deliberate attempt by the individual to introduce contraband for delivery to an inmate. Thus, a person found to have contraband in a vehicle on an institution reservation does not ordinarily present sufficient cause for arrest by a Bureau staff member, although the nature of the contraband may warrant a referral to local or federal law enforcement officials. The person ordinarily is asked to leave and to dispose of the contraband before returning.

When dangerous contraband is introduced or attempted to be introduced into a federal institution, staff may impound it for referral to law enforcement officials.

Although 18 U.S.C. § 4012 authorizes Bureau staff to summarily seize any object introduced into, or possessed within, a federal institution in violation of a rule, regulation, or order promulgated by the Director, the Bureau has determined that, as applied to non-inmates, such seizure ordinarily is limited to dangerous contraband, with the contraband being referred to law enforcement officials for possible use in criminal proceedings. Any exception to this procedure must have prior written approval, with reasons included, of the Warden, acting Warden, or administrative duty officer; a copy is forwarded to the regional correctional services administrator.

- **18 U.S.C. § 1792 – Mutiny and Riot Prohibited.** A Bureau staff member who encounters an individual who is instigating, conniving, or willfully attempting to cause or assist, or is conspiring to cause any mutiny or riot at any federal institution, shall effect an arrest. Bureau policy is to effect an arrest for a violation listed in § 1792 upon determining that the act is deliberate and intentional, and when the staff member has probable cause to believe that the individual intends to violate the cited prohibited acts of this section.
- **18 U.S.C. or 21 U.S.C.** Non-inmates may be arrested without warrant for any other offense described in 18 or 21 U.S.C., if committed on the premises or reservation of a Bureau facility, and necessary to safeguard security, good order, or government property.

Such an arrest may be made when staff has probable cause to believe that a person has committed one of these offenses, and when there is likelihood of the person escaping before a warrant can be obtained. Whenever possible, the Warden or designee shall determine whether an arrest should occur.

d. **Use of Firearms.** Bureau staff may use firearms to help detain or arrest a visitor or other person, in accordance with the Program Statement **Use of Force, Application of Restraints, and Firearms**.

e. **Notification to the Regional Director.** The Warden shall notify the Regional Director or designee by telephone when an arrest is made under this section. Detailed written documentation is forwarded to the Regional Director within three workdays of the arrest.

f. **Removal of a Visitor or Person Other Than an Inmate From an Institution.** If a visitor or other person is denied entry to the facility, but refuses to leave the Bureau grounds, law enforcement authorities should be contacted to remove the person, unless the person's actions fall within one of the serious federal crimes cited above.

When time or circumstances do not permit contact with local or federal law enforcement officials, or when law enforcement officials are unable to come to the facility, staff may use the minimum force necessary to remove a person who refuses to leave federal property.

Staff must forward a report through the Warden to the Regional Director describing the circumstances requiring the use of force.

g. **Custodial Interrogation.** Staff should not interrogate visitors or other persons in custody under this section unless immediate questioning is necessary to protect the security of the facility or the life or safety of any person.

h. **Handling of Evidence.** This must be done in accordance with the "Chain of Custody Rules for Preservation of Evidence." Refer to the Program Statement **Crime Scene Management and**

Evidence Control for further information concerning the collection and maintenance of evidence.

i. Illicit Drug Testing Kit. Contraband in the form of suspected illicit drugs is to be tested with the approved drug testing kit. A positive result is sufficient reason to refer the incident to local or federal law enforcement for possible prosecution.

9. CENTRAL VIOLATIONS BUREAU (CVB) TICKETING PROGRAM

The Central Violations Bureau (CVB) Ticketing Program was established to provide United States District Courts and federal law enforcement agencies with an efficient and cost-effective system for processing violation notices issued for petty offenses and misdemeanors committed on federal property. Bureau institutions are authorized to participate in the CVB Ticketing Program under the following procedures.

a. Participation Approval. To participate in the CVB Ticketing Program, the Warden must notify the Regional Director of the institution's intent to participate in the program. Following this notification, the Warden must contact their local United States Attorney's Office (USAO) to express interest in participating in the program. If the USAO approves participation, a request for a CVB location code shall be submitted through the USAO and the United States District Court to the CVB.

b. Program Administration. The Warden must consult with the local USAO and/or the Clerk of the United States District Court to obtain the district's current collateral forfeiture schedule and any local procedures governing the issuance of federal violation notices.

The Warden must designate qualified staff authorized to issue CVB citations and ensure those staff receive appropriate training before exercising this authority. Documentation of all completed training must be maintained by the Employee Development Manager. Training assistance may be requested through the local USAO.

c. Accountability and Records Management. The Warden must ensure procedures are established to maintain accountability for all CVB Notice booklets. A log must be maintained documenting the receipt, issuance, assignment, use, voiding, and disposition of all citation booklets and individual violation notices. All records must be maintained in accordance with applicable Bureau records management requirements.

Institutions participating in the CVB Ticketing Program must ensure all citations are issued, processed, managed in compliance with applicable federal law, Bureau policy, and the guidance provided by the USAO, the United States District Court, and the CVB. This guidance does not authorize Bureau staff to execute arrest warrants, take individuals into custody based solely on outstanding warrants, or perform other law enforcement functions for which the Bureau has no

legal authority. Staff must coordinate with the appropriate federal, state, or local law enforcement agency whenever such action is required.

REFERENCES

Program Statements

Crime Scene Management and Evidence Control
Staff Entrance and Search Procedures
Ion Spectrometry Device Program
Visiting Regulations
Use of Force, Application of Restraints, and Firearms

Federal Statutes

18 U.S.C. § 111
18 U.S.C. § 751
18 U.S.C. § 752
18 U.S.C. § 1826(c)
18 U.S.C. § 661
18 U.S.C. § 1361
18 U.S.C. § 1363
18 U.S.C. § 1791
18 U.S.C. § 1792
18 U.S.C. § 3050
18 U.S.C. § 4012

Federal Regulations

28 C.F.R. § 5001.1(h)
28 C.F.R. §§ 511.10–18

ACA Standards

Performance-Based Standards and Expected Practices for Adult Correctional Institutions
Standards (5th Edition): 5-ACI-7D-21

Performance-Based Standards and Expected Practices for Adult Detention Facilities (5th
Edition): 5-ALDF-5C-14

Records Retention Requirements

Requirements and retention guidance for records and information applicable to this program are available in the Records and Information Disposition Schedule (RIDS) on the Bureau's intranet site.